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Newspaper of the year

Met police to stop going to mental health callouts

Exclusive Decision by Rowley likely to put NHS staff under further strain

Vikram Dodd
Police and crime correspondent

Police in London will no longer attend emergency calls related to mental health incidents, the Met's commissioner has ruled.

In a letter seen by the Guardian, Sir Mark Rowley says he will order his officers not to attend thousands of calls they get every year to deal with mental health incidents.

Rowley has given health and social care services a deadline of 31 August before the force starts its ban, which will be waived only if a threat to life is feared. The Metropolitan police commissioner believes the move is necessary and urgent because officers are being diverted from their core role of fighting crime and patients who need medical experts are failed when a police officer attends instead.

The plan could cause consternation among ambulance workers, paramedics and other NHS staff who are already under pressure because of cuts and at a time when mental health services are already stretched.

Rowley's letter to the Met's health and social care partners was sent on 24 May, giving them a 99-day deadline to plan for the change. The letter makes it clear he is frustrated with having to "fill gaps for others".

Police and health chiefs have been talking about relieving the mental health burden that falls on policing under a new national scheme called right care, right person (RCRP).

But the letter reveals Britain's most senior police officer has lost patience and will force the issue. Rowley writes: "I have asked my team that the Met introduce RCRP this summer and withdraw from health-related calls by no later than 31 August.

"I appreciate this may be challenging, but for the reasons I have set out above, the status quo is untenable."

Those reasons are set out in a section marked "impact on Londoners", where Rowley writes: "It is important to stress the urgency of implementing RCRP in London. Every day that we permit the status quo to remain, we are collectively failing patients and are not setting officers up to succeed.

"In fact, we are failing Londoners twice. We are failing them first by sending police → 2



PHOTOGRAPH: RICK FINDLER/STORY PICTURE AGENCY

Warm weather across much of the UK at the weekend left plenty needing to cool off, including this T rex at the Comic Con convention at the ExCel centre in London. Yesterday was the hottest day of the year so far.

Erdoğan retains hold on Turkey in election win

Ruth Michaelson and Deniz Barış Narlı *Istanbul*

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan secured victory over his rival Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu yesterday after an unprecedented presidential runoff election, in a vote that reflected Turkey's stark and persistent political polarisation.

With 99.43% of the vote counted, Turkey's supreme election authority announced late last night that Erdoğan had won 52.14%, while his rival had 47.86%. A gap of more than 2m votes between candidates meant the uncounted votes would not change the result, said Ahmet Yener, the head of the election authority.

Even before the result was called, a triumphant Erdoğan – who has been in power for two decades with stints as prime minister and president – had stood on top of a bus near his residence in Istanbul to sing a campaign song and pronounce victory.

"Look at this scene. It's magnificent," he said. "We have completed the second round of the presidential elections with the favour of our nation. Elections come and go, the flood goes away but the sand remains. The main thing is that our country does not deviate from its goals, and our nation takes care to remain united. This is the biggest message of today's elections."

Congratulations from world leaders that he had secured five more years in power started to roll in even before the result was confirmed.

Rishi Sunak sent his congratulations after the official announcement. The prime minister tweeted: "I look forward to continuing the strong collaboration between our countries, from growing trade to tackling security threats as Nato allies." Downing Street said the pair spoke by phone last night.

Joe Biden's message also underlined working together as Nato allies on "shared global challenges".

Russia's Vladimir Putin congratulated his "dear friend", saying that the win was evidence the Turkish people appreciated Erdoğan's "independent foreign policy". Meanwhile Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskiy pledged to → 4

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News



The decision to ban Met officers from mental health callouts, except where lives are at risk, will add to the NHS workload
PHOTOGRAPH: HOLLIE ADAMS/AFP/GETTY

Met chief to stop police officers going to mental health callouts

Continued *from page 1*

officers, not medical professionals, to those in mental health crisis, and expecting them to do their best in circumstances, where they are not the right people to be dealing with the patient. We are failing Londoners a second time by taking large amounts of officer time away from preventing and solving crime, as well as dealing properly with victims, in order to fill gaps for others."

The Met is Britain's largest force, accounting for nearly one quarter of all officers in England and Wales.

The letter cites data from a new national police study that claims officers spend almost 1 million hours a year waiting in hospitals for mental health patients to be assessed, the equivalent of attending 500,000 domestic abuse incidents or 600,000 burglaries.

In the letter Rowley claims in a single month Met police officers spent 10,000 hours dealing with health issues, with it taking up to 14 hours to hand a patient over to medical staff.

The commissioner says there are scores of cases a month where his officers are called when patients "voluntarily" waiting for treatment walk out and are reported missing.

Rowley writes: "To illustrate further the pressing need for reform, on April 28/29th, the Met received the highest number of 999 calls we have ever taken (9,292 calls). Only 30% of these calls were classed as crime related … The extent to which we are collectively failing Londoners and inappropriately placing demand on policing is very stark."

Right care, right person was an innovation from Humberside where police and health services reached an agreement that saw many mental health calls dealt with by health professionals rather than officers.

A report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services in November found patients were getting better treatment, and that police had freed up resources. It said: "The Right Care, Right Person approach means that vulnerable people receive the support they need from the right organisation. The force has experts within its control room to support those vulnerable people until help arrives."

Humberside police estimates that the scheme has allowed it to reclaim 7% of officer time, which can be spent on crime fighting and prevention.

> *'The extent to which we are collectively failing Londoners is very stark'*
>
> **Sir Mark Rowley**
> *Met commissioner*

The government believes it should become a national scheme. However, health chiefs would argue cuts due to austerity left them short of the resources to cope with the demands for mental health services.

Rowley ends his letter by denying he lacks compassion: "My urgency does not speak to a lack of compassion for those in mental health crisis, quite the opposite."

His letter summons health and social care officials to a meeting with a top officer and tells them to bring plans to pick up the extra work: "I would ask that you come to that first meeting able to discuss how your organisation will be ready to respond to RCRP by 31 August."

Some police chiefs believe the better resourced NHS is dumping its work on police, who see themselves as the service of last resort. Chiefs talk of surge in demand post 4pm on Friday, with health bosses not arranging out-of-hours cover.

A Met statement added: "Where there is an immediate threat to life, officers will continue to respond. Work is already under way in London to develop a concordat across health provision and this is very welcome, however in the interests of patients and the public, we urgently need to redress the imbalance of responsibility, where police officers are left delivering health responsibilities.

"Health services must take primacy for caring for the mentally ill, allowing officers to focus on their core responsibilities to prevent and detect crime, and keep communities safe and support victims."

It is Rowley's second big row in recent weeks. He riled Britain's top prosecutor, Max Hill, the head of the Crown Prosecution Service, accusing it of "cherry picking" the easier cases to inflate conviction numbers.

Hill hit back, saying he was disappointed by the "inaccurate" comments, which he claimed risked "damaging further the public's confidence in reporting crime and their confidence that justice will be done".

The Met is in special measures and Rowley, who became commissioner in September, has vowed not just to clean up the force but to make it better at fighting crime.

Barclay admits 40 promised hospitals won't be built by 2030

Peter Walker
Deputy political editor

The health secretary has admitted the government will not build 40 new hospitals by 2030, as long promised, but said the projects involved "a range of things" including new wings and refurbishments.

Steve Barclay, who nonetheless insisted this did not break the Conservatives' manifesto promise for 40 new hospitals, also argued that the public were not concerned about the distinction as long as the facilities they used were new.

The debate over the accuracy of the government's hospital-building pledge was resurrected this week when Barclay told MPs that eight of the 40 "new hospitals" would be delayed into the next decade.

The change to the programme involved some of the 40 originally listed being replaced by schemes to refurbish or replace hospitals built with a type of concrete that is well past its expected 30-year lifespan, with roofs and ceilings at risk of falling down.

Despite the changes, the wider pledge remained, Barclay initially told BBC One's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg programme.

"We're committed to 40 new hospitals by 2030. That is the biggest capital investment the NHS will have seen, and we set out the details of that in the house on Thursday," he said.

Kuenssberg pressed the health secretary on whether he was being "completely straight with viewers", given some projects are for refurbishments, while others involve only new wings. "If you save up and you get a new conservatory on the back of your house, you don't have a new house," she said.

Barclay replied: "Some of the schemes include a hospital being gutted and fully refurbished. If you look at Charing Cross [hospital in London], for example, that's exactly what we will be doing. We'll be starting work to decant some of the facilities and then refurbish. So there's a range of things within the scheme."

Asked to explicitly say it was not 40 new hospitals, Barclay said this was "a debate that was had in 2020", and that patients would not mind either way. "Well, if it's a new wing, a new facility, a women's and children's hospital, for example, as part of a wider campus … what matters to you as a patient is whether the facilities are state of the art, whether they're new," he said.



▲ *Barclay argued the changes did not break a Tory manifesto pledge*

The change to the plan announced on Thursday added five hospitals with crumbling concrete and three mental health facilities to the list, in effect replacing eight that have been pushed back beyond the 2030 deadline.

Among those now with longer deadlines for work are St Mary's hospital in Paddington, west London, parts of which date back to 1845. Over the last year, ceilings have collapsed in two wards, sewage has leaked into the pharmacy and parts of the Cambridge wing – the oldest part of the hospital – have had to be mothballed because the floor was no longer strong enough to support the clinical services there.

Welcome to Luton

Reborn club ready to greet elite after dream weekend



▼ Luton captain Tom Lockyer celebrates from his hospital bed after collapsing during the match

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM AND STEVE LOCKYER

Ben Fisher

As bank holiday weekends go, this one will surely prove tricky for Luton Town supporters to top. On Saturday they returned, via a Wembley penalty shootout, to the top table of English football for the first time since 1992 and yesterday the town's colourful carnival took centre stage.

Today? A parade is planned, starting in St George's Square, where a frenzied atmosphere is a given. On Thursday the players are set to ramp up the celebrations by flying to Las Vegas.

On and off over the past couple of years Gary Sweet, the Luton chief executive, has had his head buried in the Premier League handbook, taking a particular interest in rule K, which details the ground regulations the club now has 11 weeks to comply with. It is what could be termed a quality problem. "We have no complaints about that," he says. "If anyone can do it, we can."

Twenty years ago, Sweet, a lifelong fan, triggered the founding of the Luton Town Supporters' Trust when he posted a rallying call on the Luton Outlaws message board, at a time when the club was toiling in the fourth tier of English football and financially precarious. Still there was further to go. 2009 Luton were relegated to the fifth tier of English football, the National League, and remained there until 2014.

Now he can put the past behind him, he is relishing the responsibility of getting the club's Kenilworth Road ground, capacity 10,356, ready to welcome the elite. He has already promised that Erling Haaland and other Premier League superstars will walk through a "shit entrance" at the ground.



▲ Luton fans outside their ground celebrate promotion

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW PARSONS



◀ The Oak stand at Kenilworth Road backs on to terraced housing

PHOTOGRAPH: CARL RECINE/REUTERS

The midfielder Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu, who joined Luton in non-league football 10 years ago, will be sure to tackle the Premier League with a smile on his face after becoming the first player to climb from non-league to the top flight with the same club. Mpanzu has already joked about just wanting to better Derby's record-low tally of 11 points in 2008.

Luton will spend £10m on giving the stadium, hemmed in by rows of terraced houses, a facelift. The biggest job is to rebuild the former Bobbers stand, which was turned into executive boxes in 1986. The floodlights have to be upgraded and the club must ensure there are 50 television camera positions. Sweet insists the Kenny, as supporters call it, will be an asset to the Premier League but Luton's promotion could accelerate the construction of a new stadium at Power Court, with a detailed planning application in the pipeline.

"There are lot of neighbours that don't want us to move," he says. But he adds: "There are a lot that do because the road closures on a Saturday are a pain in the arse."

Meanwhile Luton intend to use Kenilworth Road to their advantage. "I don't think anyone likes coming to the Kenny," smiles defender Amari'i Bell. "It's a bit of a throwback. But it is home to us and we love it. If you come here and you're not in the right frame of mind, you can't wait to leave - that's what other teams are like, anyway. The fans are so close to you it feels like they are on top of you and it is a bit daunting."

Luton had been working with two plans in parallel, one for another season in the second tier, one with the top flight in mind. The club put through planning applications last year, when they reached the Championship playoff semi-finals.

This year they went one better, beating Coventry in a typically nervy playoff final. The tension on the pitch escalated when Luton's captain, Tom Lockyer, collapsed after eight minutes, but he was later able to celebrate with his family from a hospital bed.

Luton nailed their preparations. They adjusted their pitch at training to mirror the dimensions at Wembley and spent the past three weeks honing penalty routines. Rob Edwards, the Luton manager, studied endless footage. Youth-team goalkeepers provided numbers for target practice at training. On Saturday Luton's six penalties were flawless.

Promotion back into the big time is a reward for Sweet and the others who remember the club being on the verge of liquidation. "They are people who put their heart and soul into the club," Edwards says. "Our board are fans and it means everything to them. They brought this club back from the brink."

Two charged over Just Stop Oil protest at Twickenham match

Jessica Murray

Two men have been charged over a Just Stop Oil protest at the Gallagher Premiership rugby union final at Twickenham on Saturday, when activists invaded the pitch and threw orange paint powder during live play.

The Met police said that Samuel Johnson, 40, of Reydon, Suffolk, and Patrick Hart, 37, of Brislington, Bristol, had been charged with aggravated trespass.

Police said the charges related to the incident 24 minutes into the match between Saracens and Sale, briefly disrupting play.

Stewards escorted the pair out of the stadium and the game continued. Saracens went on to win 35-25.

Both men were remanded in custody and are expected to appear at Wimbledon magistrates court today.

The Met's gold commander for events in London on Saturday, Kyle Gordon, said: "Yesterday's incident at the rugby final will have caused frustration to both the players and spectators alike.

"With many other events taking place, and visitors in our capital this weekend, we will continue to monitor and respond to such incidents quickly.

"Where protest moves into criminality or serious disruption, we will take robust action to ensure Londoners and visitors alike can continue to enjoy their bank holiday weekend."

He said the force had recorded 102 Just Stop Oil slow marches across London, which had led to 51 arrests.

In a statement after the protest, the group said it would "continue to take disruptive action until this government stops new fossil fuels".



▶ Protesters threw orange paint powder during the Saracens v Sale rugby union premiership final

Erdoğan in power for five more years after winning election runoff

Continued *from page 1*

"further strengthen our strategic partnership" with the Turkish leader.

At the headquarters of his Republican People's party (CHP) in the Turkish capital, Kılıçdaroğlu attempted to console his supporters, but made no suggestion he would stand down as opposition leader.

"In this election, the will of the people to change an authoritarian government has clearly emerged, despite all the pressures. We have experienced the most unfair election process of recent years," he said.

"Despite this climate of fear, I would like to thank all the leaders of our alliance and our citizens … We will continue to be the pioneer in this struggle, until real democracy comes to our country. My biggest sadness is the trouble waiting for this country."

Erdoğan entered the second round in the lead, after a first-round race where he received 49.5% of the overall vote compared with Kılıçdaroğlu's 44.5%, while his AK party won a majority in parliament along with its nationalist coalition partners.

The opposition had succeeded in forcing the president into a runoff vote – an unprecedented event in a presidential system that Erdoğan had introduced – but was ultimately unable to secure victory.

Meral Akşener, leader of the opposition IYI (Good) party, said: "No one should despair over the election results. No one should feel pessimistic, or feel defeated. If you believe in democracy, we should not forget that elections are the most fundamental function of any democracy."

Kılıçdaroğlu and his opposition coalition had campaigned on the promise of returning Turkey to parliamentary democracy, overhauling two decades of Erdoğan's rule by pledging to reverse many of the changes that have marked his leadership, including concentrating power around his office and jailing opponents.

After initially promising a more subdued campaign after earthquakes that killed more than 50,000 people in south-east Turkey, Erdoğan's campaign focused on assuring voters that only he was capable of solving the country's problems, including a worsening economic crisis.

"People who were responsible after the earthquake didn't do their jobs, but our leader did everything for us," said Meliha Karabök, in the town of Kahramanmaraş in the region worst hit by the quakes, and where Erdoğan won comfortably despite criticisms of the quake response.

While the opposition holds mayorships in Turkey's six largest cities, Kılıçdaroğlu's campaign appeared to run aground outside his party's traditional enclaves on the Aegean coast and in urban centres. In the provinces where Erdoğan's rule had previously catapulted many into the middle class, voters said they were unconvinced by the opposition's campaign.

"The government cites this idea a lot, that we owe Erdoğan for where Turkey now stands, that Turkey is now a very powerful country and we have done a lot thanks to his leadership. But our country is going through hardship and he should be given enough time to recover as he's the only one who can manage this," said Evren Balta, a political scientist at Özyeğin University.

After a setback for their campaign in the first-round vote, Kılıçdaroğlu and the CHP encouraged their supporters to turn out a second time amid heightened concern about the security of the vote and the count.

> *'We will continue to be the pioneer in this struggle, until real democracy comes'*
>
> **Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu**
> *Opposition candidate*

CHP officials raised concerns about violence towards their election observers in the south-east city of Şanlıurfa and in Istanbul, where one observer suffered broken ribs, saying they were examples of interference in the voting process.

In advance of the second round, both candidates received endorsement from the ultranationalist Victory party, whose presidential candidate, Sinan Oğan, gained about 5% of the vote in the first round. Oğan later endorsed Erdoğan, while the head of the Victory party, Ümit Özdağ, endorsed Kılıçdaroğlu.

"I voted because I wanted Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu to be represented. It's going to be difficult, it's not easy to change things," said Peri, a Kurdish voter in Istanbul's Kâğıthane district.

Asked about Kılıçdaroğlu's alliance with Özdağ – which prompted the opposition leader to double down on promises to deport refugees as well as pledging not to reinstate democratically elected Kurdish mayors replaced with appointees in the south-east – Peri said she was uneasy but had little choice.

"Obviously I wouldn't vote for Özdağ," she said. "But I'm Kurdish and I believe Kılıçdaroğlu is making more inclusive policies, this made me feel more comfortable. As a Kurd, I'm not disturbed by this alliance."

Analysis

West has fear and hope for president's third term

Patrick Wintour
Diplomatic editor

Western capitals remained silent through Turkey's election campaign – privately hoping Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's erratic 20-year rule would come to a surprise close. However, as he is now to serve a third term as president, after earlier stints as prime minister, the west is caught between fear and hope.

It fears he will exploit the result to take this Nato founder member further from the liberal secular west, but hopes against hope that, not being eligible to run again and thus freed from the need to pander to a nationalist electorate for the rest of his political life, he may at least be open to persuasion and base his foreign policy on something other than self-preservation.

Either way, the choices Erdoğan unbound makes matter not just for Turkey, Nato, and whatever order emerges at the end of the war in Ukraine. The immediate issue is to prevent him falling into the lap of Vladimir Putin.



▲ *President Erdoğan speaks to supporters outside his residence to celebrate his victory last night*
PHOTOGRAPH: MURAT CETIN MUHURDAR/AFP



▼ *Long before the result was officially called, Erdoğan's backers had gathered in joyous mood at AK party HQ in Istanbul*

Few western diplomats are optimistic. One said: "In the past he had turned transactionalism almost into an art form and then almost an ideology. But recently it has grown into a real antipathy towards western values and arrogance."

Erdoğan's first test will come at the Nato summit in Vilnius where he will be asked to lift Turkey's veto on the Nato membership of Sweden. He has already lifted his block on Finland's membership but has left Sweden in limbo.

Sweden, with a larger Kurdish population than Finland, says it is struggling to rationalise some of his demands, including for extradition of 140 Kurds, none of whose names have ever been definitively passed to the Swedish government.

Stockholm is toughening its anti-terror laws to please Ankara and is willing to study evidence that the Kurdish community in Sweden has become a large source of funding for the Kurdistan Workers' party (PKK), which is classified as a terrorist organisation by the EU and Turkey. But the rightwing Swedish government cannot order its judges to extradite Kurds.

Officials pretend Sweden's Nato membership is a self-standing issue, but in practice most see it as linked to the blocked US arms sales to Turkey, not to mention the future status of the S-400 missiles bought by Ankara from Russia.

Joe Biden, despite calling Erdoğan an autocrat, is willing to lift the block, endorse the $20bn sale of F16 jets and open a new chapter with Turkey. But the US president has to persuade the leaders of the House and Senate foreign affairs committees to follow suit. Michael McCaul, the Republican chair of the House committee, has hinted at flexibility, saying he was willing to endorse it as long as the Swedish Nato issue was resolved.

This has made it harder for the US officials who have travelled to Ankara to urge Erdoğan to clamp down on Turkish businesses acting as a conduit to bypass western sanctions on Russia. Turkish deals with penalised Russian companies, trade with Russia in western-made products and the export to Russia of so-called dual-use goods such as plastics, rubber and electronics have been raised with little effect.

Turkey is simply not willing to impose sanctions on Russia, and Washington is not willing to impose secondary sanctions on Turkey, fearing it would drive Erdoğan into Putin's arms.

More broadly, the west favours Erdoğan's plans to lower tensions with his neighbours, including Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt and Armenia. In some respects Erdoğan's re-election is a boon: with his human rights record, his request for EU membership can continue to gather dust, something that would have been less easy if his opponent, Kemal Kiliçdaroglu, had been elected.

Kiliçdaroglu's increasingly strident vow to force millions of Syrian refugees back over the border into Syria also sounded like vote grubbing without a plan. Erdoğan, in contrast, says he will rehouse 1 million Syrians in northern Turkey. His connections with Putin, and hence the Syrian president, Bashir al-Assad, make that plan the more plausible.

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Figures show failure to identify suspects
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How archaeology improves wellbeing
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Out of the blue A potholer is lowered into Gaping Gill, one of Britain's largest caverns, in the Yorkshire Dales national park, as it opened to the public for one week, allowing people to be winched down from a hole in the roof, a drop of 110 metres - the height of St Paul's Cathedral.

PHOTOGRAPH: DANNY LAWSON/PA WIRE

Ministers push for voluntary caps on price of essential foods

Rupert Jones
Peter Walker

The government is working with supermarkets to voluntarily cap the price of basic food items in an effort to ease the cost of living squeeze, but insists it is not considering imposing price caps.

With food and drink prices rising at the fastest pace in more than 40 years and no let-up in sight, the Treasury and supermarkets have been discussing a possible voluntary scheme for maximum prices for certain goods. These would be likely to include essentials such as bread and milk.

Suggestions that "price caps" would be introduced prompted some commentators to claim that Britain would be returning to 1970s-style price controls, but government insiders insisted that any scheme would be voluntary.

Asked about the proposals on the BBC's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg programme, the health secretary, Steve Barclay, said: "My understanding is the government is working constructively with supermarkets as to how we address the very real concerns around food inflation and the cost of living, and doing so in a way that is also very mindful to the impact on suppliers."

The plan would appear to be similar to an agreement reached in France between the government and food retailers to set the "lowest possible price" on a number of everyday products for an initial three months. Under the agreement, announced in March, retailers could select which items this applied to, and these are marked with a special logo.

The Sunday Telegraph quoted a Treasury source as saying that food price inflation "is much more resilient and difficult to get rid of than we anticipated". However, officials say the government has no plans to cap the price of food, and that any resulting scheme would not be mandatory. They say this was a matter of talking to retailers about what could be done to keep prices as low as possible.

"The government is not considering imposing price caps. Any scheme to help bring down food prices for consumers would be voluntary and at retailers' discretion," a government spokesperson said. "We know the pressure households are under with rising costs and while inflation is coming down, food prices remain stubbornly high. That's why the prime minister and chancellor have been meeting with the food sector to see what more can be done.

"We continue to support households through our £94bn package, worth £3,300 on average per household this year and last."

> *'This will not make a jot of difference to [food] prices'*
>
> **Andrew Opie**
> *British Retail Consortium*

While figures last week revealed that UK inflation, as measured by the consumer prices index, fell to 8.7% last month, food and non-alcoholic drink prices jumped by 19% in the 12 months to April, the highest level in western Europe. Leading retailers and manufacturers such as Sainsbury's and Unilever have insisted they are protecting shoppers from inflation, amid accusations that some companies are profiteering from the cost of living crisis.

Andrew Opie, director of food and sustainability at the British Retail Consortium, said of the reported plans: "This will not make a jot of difference to prices."

He added that high food prices "are a direct result of the soaring cost of energy, transport and labour, as well as higher prices paid to food manufacturers and farmers. Yet despite this, the fiercely competitive grocery market in the UK has helped to keep British food among the most affordable of all the large European economies."

Barclay acknowledged that small, family-run businesses would be under "significant pressure", and stressed the plans were "not about any element of compulsion".

Three people drown over bank holiday as temperatures rise around UK

Jessica Murray

At least three people have drowned over the bank holiday weekend as the UK recorded the hottest day of the year yesterday.

Two men in their 20s died after being pulled from the sea off the coast of Torbay, Devon and Cornwall police said. Officers were called to assist the coastguard at about 9am on Saturday after reports of concern for two people off Oddicombe beach.

After an emergency rescue, the two men were pulled from the water and one was declared dead at the scene. The second man died after being taken to Torbay district hospital.

Also on Saturday the body of a teenage boy was found in the River Eden in Carlisle after a 15-year-old went missing on Friday, Cumbria constabulary said. Yesterday he was named as Lewis Michael Kirkpatrick.

The discovery followed an extensive search operation after police were contacted over a report that four teenage boys had got into difficulty. A 14-year-old who was airlifted to hospital on Friday remains in a critical condition, while one of the group managed to swim to safety and another was rescued by a member of the public, Cumbria police said.

The deaths come as the Met Office said temperatures climbed to 24.3C at Bramham, West Yorkshire, on Saturday afternoon, leading to crowded beaches over the weekend. Temperatures yesterday were marginally even higher, with 24.4C recorded in Plymouth.

The RAC told motorists to prepare for busy roads in the warm weather, with more than 19m separate leisure trips by car predicted. The motoring organisation said it was expected to be the busiest late May bank holiday since 2019. Between 3pm and 7pm is expected to be busiest period on the roads today, particularly on the M25 north of London and heading towards the Dartford crossing.

The RAC spokesman Rod Dennis said: "With the travel restrictions imposed during Covid now thankfully a distant memory, it's clear drivers' desire to get away has been reignited.

"The Met Office currently predicts largely settled weather with above average temperatures, so we're expecting this to be a hectic period on major roads as people aim to make the most of the last long weekend before August."

The Met Office expects the warm and dry weather will last well into this week.

UK must be rebuilt as a 'solidarity union' to stay together, says Drakeford

Severin Carrell
Scotland editor

The UK could break apart unless it is rebuilt as a "solidarity union" where every citizen's rights to public services and financial security are protected, Mark Drakeford, the first minister of Wales, has claimed.

Drakeford said the social and political bonds that tie the different parts of the UK together have come under "sustained assault" from 40 years of neoliberalism, a trend launched by Margaret Thatcher in 1979 and then reinforced after Brexit by the prime ministers Boris Johnson and Liz Truss.

"In order to persuade people in all parts of the United Kingdom that their futures lie together within a restructured United Kingdom, we have to recreate a solidarity union," the Welsh Labour leader said in an interview with the Guardian.

That included rebuilding the safety net for those sick or out of work, with citizens having fundamental rights to environment, consumer and trade union protections, to human rights, and to affordable public services.

"We have to rebuild the safety net, so you know that your membership of the United Kingdom entitles you to that collective security that it represents," Drakeford said, implying that without it, Scotland and Northern Ireland could choose to leave the UK.

"If you move from Scotland to Wales, you know that you will take those fundamental rights with you as part of your citizenship. Those have all been eroded progressively by Tory governments, particularly since 1979.

"The long years of neoliberalism have been a sustained assault on the notion that citizenship means rights, and the next Labour government needs to rebuild those rights, to



▲ *Mark Drakeford has argued for a reformed UK as a response to demands for independence*

do it explicitly and to say to people, this is what you get - that's why it is worth belonging [to the UK]."

Drakeford is expected to expand on that stance at a conference in Edinburgh on 1 June, hosted by the former Labour prime minister Gordon Brown, which will explore Labour's proposals for significant reform of the UK. Organised by Brown's Our Scottish Future thinktank, speakers will include Andy Burnham, the mayor of Greater Manchester, and the Scottish Labour leader, Anas Sarwar.

Drakeford is one of Labour's most prominent advocates of wholesale reform of the UK, arguing that is the most credible response to the demands for independence in Scotland and for Northern Ireland's reunification with the Irish Republic.

Wales, where Labour has a cooperation agreement with the nationalist party Plaid Cymru, has seen a slow increase in support for independence, though that remains well below the near-50% support independence commands in Scotland. Demand for greater devolution to Wales is, however, entrenched.

Brown's proposals, which have been endorsed by Keir Starmer, the UK Labour leader, include scrapping the House of Lords and replacing it with an elected second chamber to represent Britain's nations and regions. Brown's commission proposes greater political and financial powers for Scotland, Wales and the English regions, and legally binding structures to guarantee that the devolved parliaments in Holyrood, the Senedd and Stormont cannot have their powers overridden by Westminster.

Drakeford said since Brexit, anglocentric Conservatives in London had shown a "fundamental disrespect" for the Welsh and Scottish parliaments by imposing internal trade rules and by failing to recognise Wales and Scotland had autonomy over health policy during the Covid crisis.

Rishi Sunak, Truss's successor as prime minister, was showing greater respect towards the UK's devolved nations, he said, "even if it doesn't translate into very practical effects".

In his speech on Thursday, Drakeford is likely to challenge the Brown commission's position that Westminster would still retain sovereignty over the legislatures in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh.

Drakeford said the reality now is that "sovereignty exists in four different places".

"What we should do is think of a United Kingdom in which sovereignty rests in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and then we choose voluntarily to pool that sovereignty back for certain important key shared purposes," he said.

That outlook helped Drakeford build a close working relationship with Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland's former first minister, during their battles with the UK government over Brexit and during the Covid crisis. Drakeford is widely respected by senior Scottish National party politicians.

Drakeford said the crisis in England over privatised water companies "siphoning off" profits while providing appalling services demonstrated the need for Labour to guarantee that essential services operated in the public interest.

Until Thatcher's privatisation spree, voters had a stake in public utilities and services. "I am not arguing at all for an old fashioned 1945 nationalisation programme [but] since the public invests huge amounts of money in bus services, train services and water services, it is entitled to a better return on that investment," he said.

"We have to find new ways that suit the 21st century to make sure that when decisions are made, the voice of the public is at the table to assert those interests - and that you get that by being members of the United Kingdom.

"So my solidarity union [consists] of building up a union based on those rights of citizenship."



PHOTOGRAPH: GREENWALES/ALAMY

▲ *The Caban Coch dam, Elan Valley. Welsh Water is a not for profit body, and Mark Drakeford says taxpayers deserve more from privatised water firms*



'Children not valued'

Former Sure Start chief says Tory changes are simply for the economy



Alexandra Topping

Naomi Eisenstadt remembers her excitement when she started as the first director of the government's Sure Start unit in 1999.

"I felt like Lyndon Johnson had rung up and asked me to set up Head Start," she said, referring to the US president's 1965 policy to fight the "war on poverty".

"For decades many women had been arguing with the government about what to do about early years. And then Blair and Brown said: 'Yes, let's do it.' That was extraordinary."

But as England and Wales prepare for the biggest shake-up in early years education in at least a decade - after a huge extension to the "free" childcare hours for working parents - her optimism for the nation's children has gone.

"I think the government values childcare but it doesn't value children," Eisenstadt said. "There was nothing in the statement about children - it was completely about the economy. And that's a short-term view, because these children will be the workforce in 15 to 20 years. I am very anxious about the lack of attention on what childcare is actually for."

She points out that the number of nursery workers qualified to level 3 has plummeted from 83% of staff in 2015 to 52% in 2019. "I think we have to stop talking about more and start talking about better," she said.

Others have mentioned that the



◀ *A girl plays at the Sure Start Palfrey nursery in Walsall, West Midlands, in 2015. Sure Start benefited children and families, said its first director, Naomi Eisenstadt* PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW FOX/ALAMY



▲ *Eisenstadt as Scotland's poverty adviser with Nicola Sturgeon in 2015* PHOTOGRAPH: JULIE BULL/SCOTSMAN/PA WIRE

new "free hours" - which are only available to working parents and not to those in training or not in work - risk exacerbating existing inequalities between children starting school.

Research from Coram Family and Childcare and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation released last week has found that the proposed investment risks "worsening outcomes for disadvantaged children".

The Sutton Trust said 70% of those eligible for the current 30-hour offering are in the top half of earners compared with 20% of families in the bottom third.

> ***'I am very anxious about the lack of attention on what childcare is actually for'***
>
> **Naomi Eisenstadt**
> *First Sure Start director*

It matters, the charities argue: having steadily decreased from 2007 to 2017, the attainment gap for five-year-olds had increased back to 2015 levels by 2019. In 2022, 69% of five-year-olds in England who didn't qualify for free school meals had a "good level of development" compared with only 48% of those who did.

"The danger is that we're missing an opportunity for cohorts of children who could benefit by a higher-quality offer," said Eisenstadt. "This is completely counter to the idea of levelling up."

At its peak in 2009-10, Sure Start had 3,600 centres and a £1.8bn budget before austerity cut its budget by more than 60%. By last June the number of full children's centres had dropped to 2,773, with many offering much-reduced services. "Most of the centres don't exist any more in terms of what the original plan was," said Eisenstadt.

She is reflective about the programme's impact. Its first evaluation in 2005 found that while children of less disadvantaged families benefited, those in the worst circumstances had more problems than before. A follow-up in 2008 told a different story and found that in five out of 14 outcomes, Sure Start children did better than those not using the programme. In 2021 research from the Institute for Fiscal Studies found the policy had long-term benefits for children's health, which offset about a third of its cost and continued "well beyond the end of the programme itself".

"There was a real sense that things could change. And they did. Sadly they have changed back," she said. "But you know, it doesn't mean what we did wasn't worthwhile for those families that used them at the time."

Sure Start got some things wrong, she said: it focused too much on making parents happy rather than what really benefited children. "But what grieves me is that we were learning so much."

While not hopeful, she does at least think that some of the learning became baked in. The Conservative former minister Andrea Leadsom's proposals for "family hubs" are the right idea, she thinks, even if there are too few and aiming them at 0-to 19-year-olds is "completely nuts".

While Eisenstadt points to increasing child poverty - which is lower than 20 years ago but has been rising since 2013 - and the housing crisis as proof that the situation for children and young people has deteriorated, she does think the dial has moved.

"The fact that there will be something about the under-fives in both political manifestos for the next election is a big change," she said. "Whether they'll be the right policies or not is another matter."

Green energy
Labour plans to block North Sea oil and gas exploration

Peter Walker
Deputy political editor

Labour has confirmed it will block all new domestic oil and gas developments if it wins power, proposing instead to invest heavily in renewable sources such as wind and also in nuclear power.

"What we'll be doing in the coming weeks is outlining how we want to invest in the green jobs of the future, to bring bills down, to create a more sustainable energy supply," the shadow work and pensions secretary, Jonathan Ashworth, told Sky's Sophy Ridge on Sunday show.

"We know we've got to move to more renewable sources of energy. It's important for our climate change commitments, but it's also the way in which we can bring energy bills down for consumers. This isn't about shutting down what's going on now. We will manage those sustainably."

The proposals, which the Labour leader, Keir Starmer, is expected to set out formally on a visit to Scotland next month, will involve not just a ban on new North Sea oil and gas licences, but a pledge that any borrowing for investment should be limited to green schemes.

A party source said: "We are against the granting of new licences for oil and gas in the North Sea. They will do nothing to cut bills, as the Tories have acknowledged. They undermine our energy security and would drive a coach and horses through our climate targets.

"But Labour would continue to use existing oil and gas wells over the coming decades and manage them sustainably as we transform the UK into a clean energy superpower."

This will not stop drilling on projects that have already been approved, with the exception of the Rosebank and Cambo schemes, which Labour has said previously it would block. Asked if this would leave the country overreliant on wind power, Ashworth said: "It's a mischaracterisation to say our policies all depend on wind. Yes, we need to invest in wind. We need to invest in tidal, we need to invest in nuclear.

"We need more sustainable sources of energy supply in order to bring the bills down for consumers and actually create jobs in this green transition." The aim, he said, should be for the UK to become a world leader in the green energy transition, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Grant Shapps, the energy secretary, said Labour's plans amounted to an "ideological vendetta against British energy independence" that would risk jobs and help Russia in using energy supplies as a weapon.

The proposal is the latest in a series of Labour pledges over a move towards a greener economy. At last year's party conference, Starmer said Labour would set up a publicly owned energy company run on clean UK power, to be known as Great British Energy.

Iraq conflict
Miliband says he regrets backing war

Lucy Knight

David Miliband has said his support for the invasion of Iraq is "one of the deepest regrets" from his time in politics. The former foreign secretary also said the 2003 war and aftermath had caused "real damage" to western claims to stand up for core values of international order and justice.

"I voted for the war. I supported the government's position," the chief executive of the International Rescue Committee told an audience at the Hay festival in Wales. "There's no question in my mind about quite how serious a mistake that was."

Miliband described the war as "a strategic mistake", partly because of "the global lesson that it allowed to be taught". "I don't believe, myself, that it excuses what's happened subsequently in Ukraine," he said, but agreed that some may see the west as hypocritical in its anti-Russia stance. "I think it's a very, very serious point."

Miliband said he worried a lot about the way he saw the world as being divided. "Ukraine has united the west, but it's divided the west and wider parts of the world," he said.

While just five countries have supported Russia at the UN, "40 or 50 countries have refused to join any condemnation, not because they support the invasion of Ukraine, but they feel that the west has been guilty of hypocrisy and weakness in dealing with global problems over the last 30 years", Miliband said.

He encouraged people to read the speeches of President William Ruto of Kenya, who "talks about how the effort in Ukraine should be contrasted with the effort to tackle those other wars in other parts of the world".

He said Ruto and others had made the point that "yes, Ukraine has enormous poverty and crimes against its own population, but what about Ethiopia, what about Afghanistan, what about Palestine? And that's what we have to take very, very seriously if we want to understand what's the role of the west, never mind the UK, in global politics."



▲ *The west is seen as being guilty of hypocrisy, David Miliband said*

Tories have abandoned 'equal pay generation' of female workers – Labour

Peter Walker
Deputy political editor

The so-called "equal pay generation" of female workers, who were born near the passing of the 1970 Equal Pay Act, are unlikely to see the gender pay gap close during their working lives, a Labour analysis has shown.

Research carried out for Anneliese Dodds, the shadow secretary of state for women and equalities, calculated that such is the slow rate of change with equal pay for women in their 50s, the gap will not close before 2050 at the current trajectory.

Labour argues that this amounts to an effective abandonment of a whole generation of working women.

Data from the Office for National Statistics' annual survey of hours and earnings shows that the gender pay gap is highest for women aged 50 to 59, at 11.7% for full-time workers. This is nearly four times as high as for women in their 30s.

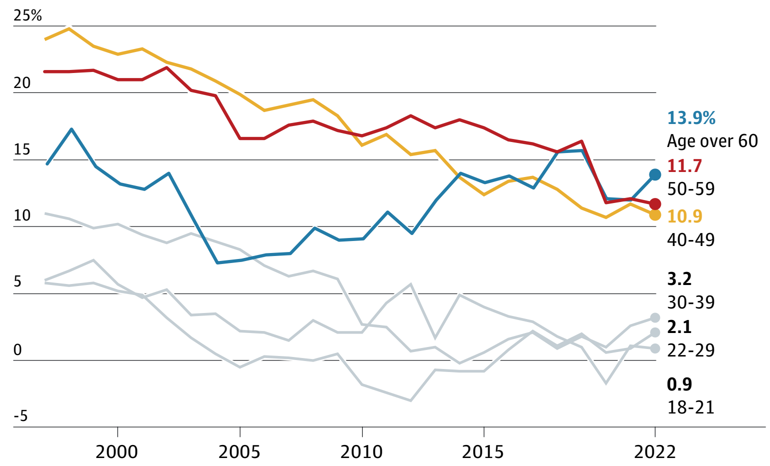
Labour said its calculations showed the gap for this age group had closed by only 5.1 percentage points since 2010, when the Conservatives came to power, meaning that at the current rate of change, the pay gap for this bracket would not be eliminated for another 27 years.

Dodds said: "The equal pay generation have been abandoned by the Conservatives thanks to 13 years of inaction and economic stagnation.

"Women in their 40s, 50s and 60s deserve so much better than this. How can it be right for these women – the heroines taking kids or grandkids to school, caring for elderly parents and navigating a career sometimes also while experiencing menopausal symptoms – to be left behind, condemned to decades of disproportionately low pay?

"We want to see women thrive in this period of their life, not simply survive. Labour will take action to finally close the pernicious gender pay gap once and for all."

The gender pay gap for full-time employees is highest among women in their 40s, 50s and 60s



Source: ONS



▲ *Frances O'Grady, the former head of the TUC, is leading a review into the gender pay gap for Labour*

A parallel Labour analysis has shown that among the workforce of women aged 50 to 64, 185,000 more have become economically inactive since the start of Covid, while real wages for women in their 40s and 50s have fallen by £1,000 a year since 2010.

Labour has pledged to support women in their 40s and older remaining in work with policies such as a requirement for large employers to put in place so-called menopause action plans, which set out how they are supporting their employees experiencing menopausal symptoms.

> *'How can it be right for these women to be left behind to decades of disproportionately low pay?'*
>
> **Anneliese Dodds**
> *Labour*

This could include paid time off as needed and working environments with temperature-controlled areas.

About one in 10 women aged 45 to 55 left their jobs last year due to their symptoms and a lack of workplace support, according to Labour research supported by the Fawcett Society, released in February.

The party has also promised to launch a formal review into the gender pay gap, led by Frances O'Grady, the former general secretary of the TUC.

Announced in March, O'Grady's review is set to be published later this year and will be used by Labour to develop further policies to support working parents, help employers eradicate unequal pay, and review the parental leave system.



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▲ The youthful avatars of Björn, Agnetha, Frida and Benny in the Abba Voyage. Above, the three Abba members who appeared at the show PHOTOGRAPH: ABBA VOYAGE

Winners take it all

Abba join Abbatars in arena to mark one year of virtual shows

Harriet Sherwood
Arts and culture correspondent

On stage, digital technology gave the 3,000-strong audience at the Abba arena in east London perfectly recreated youthful versions of Agnetha, Benny, Björn and Anni-Frid.

At the rear of the auditorium, three of the group, now in their 70s, appeared in real life, waving like the pop royalty they are. The crowd was in ecstatic meltdown. Benny Anderson, Björn Ulvaeus and Anni-Frid (Frida) Lyngstad were at the arena on Saturday evening to celebrate the first anniversary of the phenomenally successful show, Abba Voyage, featuring avatar versions of the band members.

More than 1.3m tickets have been sold to date, and the show has been extended to run at its London venue until May 2024. There are reports of a world tour, and Ulvaeus has suggested that replicas of the purpose-built arena could be constructed in Asia, Australia and North America.

For Kim Smith, who had travelled from Portsmouth to see the show with her daughter Lucy as a 62nd birthday treat, it was an emotional experience. "It took me back 40 years," she said. "I was so overwhelmed that I cried."

Abba Voyage opened a year ago to five-star reviews. "The effect is genuinely jaw-dropping … it's almost impossible to tell you're not watching human beings," the Guardian's Alexis Petridis wrote.

It took seven years and $175m to develop the technology and build the arena near the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford, east London. The four members of the band spent a month in motion-capture suits and helmets to help create the avatars - or Abbatars - that now "perform" seven times a week while their human counterparts can put their feet up.

"It was meticulously prepared, enormously expensive and incredibly difficult to create believable digital people," said Svana Gisla, a producer of Abba Voyage. "But the result is magical."

The avatars created by the visual effects specialists Industrial Light & Magic had to "blend with the physical world", including a 10-piece live band, said Gisla. "The join needed to be invisible. It needed to become one unit.

"Technology is the vehicle, but the audience shouldn't feel the technology. We only got into the arena six weeks before the show opened, and at that point we couldn't be sure it was going to work."

The 90-minute show is the same for every performance, unlike a live gig where artists can mix up the numbers they perform. But, said Gisla, the live band - which has its own spotlight mid-show - and the audience make each event unique.

The fans come in wigs, sequins and shiny catsuits, some as old or older than Abba, others born long after the band's last live performance in 1982. The 350 shows since the opening on 27 May last year have attracted people from more than 140 countries.

Up to 200 staff - 75% recruited in the local area - work on each performance, including those whose role is to enforce the ban on photographs and video.

"It's lovely when people put their phones in their pockets and are there in the moment. It's very rare to be at a concert where people are just dancing and singing, and not spending 80% of their time filming other people," said Gisla.

Last week, Abba ruled out a reunion for next year's Eurovision in Stockholm, 50 years after they won the competition with Waterloo. They have previously reportedly turned down the offer of $1bn to reunite. "

Neither can their avatars perform outside the arena. "We joke that they don't do special appearances, award ceremonies or barmitzvahs, because they can't," said Gisla.

Other performers have watched the show's extraordinary success, with some inevitably pondering their own futures on stage.

"Good luck to them," said Gisla. "It's very expensive at the moment, and technology moves very quickly, especially AI-driven technology, which is probably further along than we even imagine. But the technology isn't enough. There is also an emotional experience in the arena."

Avatars would not replace live performance, Gisla said. "Musicians need to perform and audiences want to see performances, that's never going to die. That's an art form that has been alive for thousands of years. That's the human connection that we need in life, and this is just another form of entertainment."

'Succession syndrome' is reality for rich children - addiction clinic

Nadia Khomami
Arts and culture correspondent

As the hit HBO drama Succession draws to an end, one of the world's leading addiction treatment centres has warned of the prevalence of "Succession syndrome" - where successful and wealthy households "create a deep-rooted fear of weakness and failure" in children.

Paracelsus Recovery is an international centre in London and Zurich that offers medical help, therapy and counselling for up to $132,000 (£107,000) a week. It said almost 40% of their patients struggle with "Succession syndrome", which refers to a range of mental health conditions and addiction problems affecting the children of extremely affluent households.

The Golden Globe- and Emmy-winning series, which tells the story of billionaire patriarch Logan Roy and his power-hungry children, has been hailed as one of the best TV series of all time. Its themes, including battles between the Roy children over control of his media empire, have echoes of dynastic struggles over wealth and power throughout history.

But according to Paracelsus, it is also indicative of the real-life afflictions faced by wealthy and powerful families like the Roys. While children of wealthy parents grow up with many privileges, Paracelsus said, many suffer from what psychiatrists have termed "affluent neglect", where their parents are physically and emotionally absent.

Wealth, the centre added, made a person more than 27% more likely to abuse alcohol, and narcissistic personality disorder was also common among patients. In Succession, this is demonstrated by Kendall's constant shifting from grandiose to vulnerable narcissism, Shiv's disregard for other people's feelings, and Roman's inability to connect with others.



▲ Succession tells the story of Logan Roy and his power-hungry children

"We see so many children of affluent families suffering from mental health and addiction problems that we've started calling this 'Succession syndrome'," said Jan Gerber, founder and CEO of Paracelsus Recovery.

"It is characterised by anxiety, depression, narcissistic personality disorder, and sometimes other conditions like bipolar and alcohol and substance abuse.

"The success of Succession has highlighted the complicated and potentially damaging effects of coming from an extremely successful family. The Roy children are all very damaged individuals."

Ex-This Morning doctor Ranj Singh says culture on show became 'toxic'

Christy Cooney

A TV doctor who previously worked on ITV's This Morning has said the culture on the show became "toxic" and that he was "managed out" after he tried to raise his concerns.

Dr Ranj Singh, who made regular appearances offering medical advice, said that, over 10 years on the show, he grew "increasingly worried about how things were behind the scenes and how people, including myself, were being treated".

It comes after Phillip Schofield resigned from ITV and was dropped by his talent agency after admitting lying about an affair with a young male colleague on This Morning.

The resignation followed weeks of speculation about tensions between Schofield and his co-presenter, Holly Willoughby, who has since said Schofield had initially denied the affair and called the admission that he was lying "very hurtful". The duo first presented the show together in 2009.

ITV has said rumours of the affair were investigated when they first arose in early 2020 but that both Schofield, 61, and the younger man "categorically and repeatedly denied" any relationship.

In a post yesterday, Singh denied knowledge of the affair and said he "genuinely loved and valued working" on This Morning, but that the issues with the show "go far beyond" Schofield. "It takes more than one person to create a culture," he wrote.

Singh said he raised his concerns over the working environment on the show about two years ago with ITV's head of daytime, Emma Gormley, and that he had felt particularly compelled to do so because he had been involved with "diversity, anti-bullying and mental health projects across the channel".

"I then found myself being used less and less," he said. "I even took my concerns directly to the top of



▲ *Dr Ranj Singh appearing on This Morning alongside Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby in 2019*
PHOTOGRAPH: KEN MCKAY/SHUTTERSTOCK

> ***'I found myself being used less and less. I felt like because I whistle-blew I was managed out'***
>
> **Dr Ranj Singh**
> *On his treatment by ITV*

ITV: the culture at This Morning had become toxic, no longer aligned with ITV values, and I felt like because I whistle-blew I was managed out."

Singh said that "things like bullying and discrimination are very hard to prove" and "no investigation is foolproof" but that he was "assured that certain things were going to be addressed and changes made".

"I haven't worked on the show since," he wrote. "And I'm not the only one who has spoken up or experienced similar."

An ITV spokesperson said: "We are sorry to read Dr Ranj's post today. At ITV we are fully committed to providing every opportunity for anyone who works with us to raise any concern or comments they may have.

"Following a complaint made by Dr Ranj, we appointed an external and independent adviser to carry out a review. This review found no evidence of bullying or discrimination."

After Schofield's resignation, This Morning has continued with cover presenters Alison Hammond and Dermot O'Leary, while Willoughby is taking a two-week holiday.

The broadcaster denied speculation in yesterday's newspapers about the show's future, with a spokesperson saying: "As we said on the record [on Saturday], This Morning is not under review and there are no plans for the show to be axed. This Morning will return as normal [today]."

The Sun on Sunday reported that some hosts had threatened to quit in the fallout over the controversy, with one household name reportedly said to have drafted a resignation statement, and senior producers said to fear an exodus of regular presenters. The newspaper reported a source saying: "The future of This Morning is hanging by a thread and presenting talent are unsure of their next move."

Schofield revealed the affair began while he was still with his wife, Stephanie Lowe, in a statement published by the Daily Mail, adding he was "very, very sorry" for having been unfaithful to her.



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Al-Qaida suspect tells tribunal UK spies helped the CIA torture him

Harry Davies

A Guantánamo Bay prisoner tortured by the CIA has accused British intelligence agencies of complicity in his mistreatment, in a new case before one of Britain's most secretive courts.

Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, who is alleged by the US to have plotted al-Qaida's bombing of an American naval ship, is seeking to persuade the court to consider his complaint against MI5, MI6 and GCHQ. Lawyers for Nashiri, 58, argued last week there was an "unavoidable inference" that the intelligence agencies were complicit in his torture, rendition and mistreatment by the CIA.

Nashiri, a Saudi Arabian citizen, was first detained in 2002 as part of the CIA's post-9/11 secret interrogation programme. He is facing the death penalty before a US military commission over his alleged role in the 2000 bombing.

The UK government is challenging Nashiri's request for the investigatory powers tribunal (IPT), which investigates complaints against the intelligence services, to consider the case at a substantive hearing.

In papers submitted to the tribunal, Nashiri's barrister, Hugh Southey KC, said: "The complainant's case is that the UK agencies aided, abetted, encouraged, facilitated and/or conspired with the US authorities in his mistreatment."

After his capture by the CIA, Nashiri was disappeared into a network of secret prisons operated by the agency, known as "black sites", in Afghanistan, Thailand and eastern European countries.

A US Senate investigation into the CIA's post-9/11 detention programme found Nashiri was repeatedly tortured while held at the black sites. The "enhanced interrogation techniques" used against him included waterboarding, mock executions and "rectal feeding".

After almost four years, Nashiri was transferred in 2006 to the US military prison at Guantánamo Bay in Cuba. He has been detained there ever since.

In Nashiri's complaint to the IPT, his lawyers said he was of "specific interest" to British intelligence in the 2000s and probably part of a group of detainees in whose torture Britain was allegedly complicit. The lawyers allege the British involvement was likely to have included allowing Luton airport to be used to refuel a private jet used in Nashiri's rendition from Thailand to Poland in December 2002.



▲ Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri has been held at Guantánamo Bay since 2006

If the case is allowed to proceed at the IPT it could place the spotlight back on longstanding questions about the UK's alleged complicity in the CIA's detention programme.

In 2018, the parliamentary intelligence and security committee concluded the British spy agencies were involved in the kidnap and torture of terrorism suspects by the CIA. However, the committee said its investigation had been "terminated prematurely" owing to government obstruction. British ministers previously pledged to hold an independent judge-led inquiry into the issue, but the commitment was abandoned in 2019.

At Guantánamo Bay, Nashiri is awaiting trial before a military tribunal in connection with the bombing of the USS Cole, which killed 17 American sailors. US officials have accused him of being "one of al-Qaida's most skilled, capable, and prolific operational coordinators".

Nashiri's case has been scrutinised by the European court of human rights, which found that Poland, Romania and Lithuania committed human rights violations while helping the CIA operate black sites.

Asked about Nashiri's case at the IPT, a government spokesperson said: "It is a longstanding principle that the government does not confirm or deny allegations, assertions or speculation about the activities of UK intelligence agencies."

Review

Solo Izzard aces an array of Dickens characters



◀ Eddie Izzard is both heartfelt and true to comedic form in embodying a multitude of characters in Dickens's Great Expectations PHOTOGRAPH: GARRICK THEATRE

Great Expectations
Garrick theatre, London
★★★★☆

Arifa Akbar

Eddie Izzard performing Great Expectations - but why? That question hangs over the start of this one-woman dramatisation of Charles Dickens's tale of spurned love and social mobility. But it gets forgotten fairly quickly as Izzard winds us in intelligently and expertly so that this familiar story casts its spell over us anew.

Out of the bounds of standup, Izzard stays a seductive performer, pacing the narration with no sense of rush and bringing a delicate physical comedy to the stage. Izzard makes the same circular movements as in one of her gigs, and with the same polyphony of voices in conversation with each other - here ranging from a dithery young Pip to kindly blacksmith Joe Gargery and Miss Havisham's cold-hearted charge, Estella, with whom Pip falls disastrously in love. Under the direction of Selina Cadell, and following a first New York run, Izzard emerges oozing neo-Victorian chic (frilled shirt, velvet-lapelled jacked, bright red lips and nails) and perambulates Tom Piper's set, which is styled with all the faded grandeur of Miss Havisham's ancient home: red velvet curtains, dimmed lights, draped sheets and long shadows.

The script is adapted by Izzard's brother, Mark Izzard, who distils the humour, lyricism and observational detail of Dickens's text, though some lines are given playful twists. "Arse before wicket … it's an old cricketing term," says Izzard cheekily, and sings "Pumblechook, Pumblechook rah rah rah" when that character comes on.

The many complexities around secret parentage are delivered with clarity, and where the performance could so easily have drifted into parodic, cod-Dickensian, Bleak Expectations territory in the hands of a comedian, it retains its dramatic heart. The comedy is always there nonetheless, helped by Dickens's love of the exaggerated or comic grotesque. Humour is a language Izzard uses instinctively, it seems, and it nestles subtly alongside the pathos. In this story of identity in relation to social class as well as romantic rejection, Izzard encapsulates the former more keenly - the shame and snobbery of Pip's rise and his relationships with the convict turned benefactor Magwitch as well as humble Joe bringing the true, heart-tugging moments.

Some lines are archly said, notably one in which Pip is observed as a boy, repeated with just enough irony to turn it into a self-referential gender joke and Izzard's own change of pronoun, but it comes with the lightest of touches.

Where Dickens's story begins in Kent, before Pip's change of fortunes take him to London, Izzard gives the working-class characters a Cornish-sounding accent, with some muddle in voices with the juggling among characters -but there is so much charisma there that it only amuses us more and keeps us drawn in.

Izzard, a seductive performer, uses a polyphony of voices in conversation with each other as in one of her gigs

It is a moot point whether this show confirms Izzard's credentials as a serious dramatic actor - but what she certainly proves here is her unparalleled, really rather sublime storytelling chops.

The answer to the question of why is answered at the end: this production began as a pandemic project, and is finally realised only now. But that "why" hardly matters. Izzard, ever running towards the new and challenging, turns it into a "why ever not?"

Until 1 July



Teenager's family angry at slow progress since inquest

Steven Morris

Relatives of Gaia Pope have expressed anger at the lack of progress on key reforms in policing and health-care they believe are needed a year after the Dorset teenager's inquest exposed dozens of failings in her care. One described the impact of her death and the legal process that followed as "a wound that will never heal or even stop bleeding".

They say some of the organisations that were told by the senior coroner, Rachael Griffin, at the end of the inquest - one of the longest in British history - to consider changes had ignored her or made only minor tweaks. Charities that work with bereaved families and survivors of sexual assault said the relatives' complaints showed fundamental reform was needed to compel organisations to take real action when a coroner produces a preventing future deaths (PFD) report.

Pope's cousin Marienna Pope-Weidemann said: "For the three months of the inquest we spent every day in a room where it's basically torture hearing the terrible details over and over. Our barrister had never seen so many PFD reports coming out of one inquest. I was pulled into hoping there would be change … About a week later I woke up with a really cold feeling." She pointed out that the recommendations in a PFD report are non-binding.

Pope's sister Clara Pope-Sutherland said: "The jury's findings were damning. But there is this continued feeling that we and other victims' families are being failed by the system. Reliving the trauma of what happened in the inquest is still very prevalent for all of us."

Pope, who had epilepsy, went missing on 7 November 2017 from the seaside town of Swanage at a time when she feared a man who allegedly raped her was about to be released from prison, and soon after being sent indecent images by another man, which relatives say triggered her post-traumatic stress disorder. The 19-year-old's body was found in undergrowth on a clifftop 11 days later after a flawed police search. She had died of hypothermia.

The inquest jury in Bournemouth heard about a series of missed chances - the family say it added up to about 50 - to help or save her.

At the end of the inquest, Griffin, the senior coroner for Dorset, wrote to 10 organisations expressing concerns and asking them to look at making specific changes. For example, he asked the College of Policing to consider giving training to all police officers in England and Wales on mental health illness and epilepsy. The college wrote back saying such training was not practical because of the number of medical conditions officers would need to know about.

The coroner also expressed concern about the number of specialist epilepsy nurses, having heard there were only two for 10,000 adults with epilepsy in Dorset. Since the inquest, University Hospitals Dorset NHS foundation trust has hired just one more, who works one day a week.

Pope's family made it clear during the inquest she was devastated that the man who allegedly raped her, who went on to be jailed for other sexual offences against girls, was not prosecuted. They said the inquest exposed serious failings in how rape allegations are investigated and called for Dorset police to introduce a specialist rape unit. The force continues to insist this is not necessary.

"It's the one thing we asked them to invest in," said Pope-Weidemann. "Gaia and other women are being badly failed by a toxic culture of misogyny within the police and other state services."

On the number of epilepsy nurses, Pope-Sutherland said: "As a family we do understand that the NHS is under significant pressure. It's only getting worse. But one extra nurse one day a week is frankly insulting."



◀ *Reliving the trauma: sisters Maya and Clara Pope-Sutherland flank cousin Marienna Pope-Weidemann.* ▶ *Gaia Pope, 'failed by misogyny'*
PHOTOGRAPH: MILLIE PILKINGTON/THE GUARDIAN

Lucy Nevitt, of the Gemini Project, which campaigns for changes to the way sexual violence is investigated, called the College of Policing's stance "ignorant and dangerous".

The College of Policing accepted that its reply was not what the coroner had hoped for. But Ch Supt Andy Walker said: "While police officers and staff need good first aid skills, we don't think that providing them with extra medical training would be effective in helping them make better decisions about missing persons."

Dorset police said all its teams were specialists in the investigation of sexual offences. A spokesperson said: "Therefore there is currently no plan to create a further dedicated team although we continually keep our operating model under review."

University Hospitals Dorset NHS foundation trust said that as well as the part-time nurse it had appointed an epilepsy coordinator.

Pope-Weidemann said she remained very angry at the inquest system. "When you have lost someone you love and your family is forever changed, forever incomplete, forever suffering, it's a wound that will never heal or even stop bleeding."

Rape Crisis offers support for anyone affected by rape or abuse, on 0808 500 2222 in England and Wales, 0808 801 0302 in Scotland, or 0800 0246 991 in Northern Ireland





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Suspect charged in just 8% of reported muggings last year

Peter Walker
Deputy political editor

More than 30,000 muggings in England and Wales did not even see a suspect identified by police last year, research released by the Liberal Democrats has shown.

Just 8% of all offences of robbery of personal property reported to police last year saw someone being charged, the data from the House of Commons library research showed.

West Midlands police were the worst-performing force by this metric, with 4% of robberies reported to its officers in 2022 leading to a charge, followed by Northamptonshire on 5%, with the Avon and Somerset and Hampshire forces both reaching 6%.

The research showed that in total, 30,079 robberies of personal property reported across England and Wales in 2022 saw the cases closed without a suspect being identified.

The dataset is for robbery of personal property that involves violence or threats to the victim, the formal definition of mugging.

The Lib Dems said it showed the poor performance of the home secretary, Suella Braverman, while she is "embroiled in scandal" such as claims she asked civil servants to intervene in arranging a private speed awareness course after being caught speeding.

The party has called for a greater focus on more visible community policing.

Sarah Olney, the Lib Dems' Treasury spokesperson, who asked the Commons library to carry out the research, said: "These shocking figures show muggings are being effectively decriminalised, with far too many violent criminals let off the hook.

"People are being left feeling unsafe walking down their own local streets, because this Conservative government has slashed neighbourhood policing to the bone. Crime victims are being abandoned while the home secretary, Suella Braverman, is embroiled in endless scandals. We need to see a return to proper community policing, making our streets safer and ending this free-for-all for criminals."

30,079
Mugging cases in England and Wales in 2022 closed without a suspect being identified

A Home Office spokesperson said: "Robbery is an invasive and unsettling crime for victims and we expect police to take all incidents seriously.

"We are providing police with the resources they need, having delivered on our commitment to recruit 20,000 additional police officers by March 2023, the highest it has ever been.

"We are also supporting police by providing funding for crime prevention measures, including better street lighting and CCTV, and equipping police with better technology to help their investigations and catch more criminals."

Annual statistics for 2021-22, released last year, showed that recorded crime in England and Wales reached a 20-year high, with the proportion of offences leading to court action at a new low.

In total, 5.6% of all offences reported to police led to a suspect being charged or summonsed, down from 7.1% the previous year and from 16% in 2014-15, Home Office figures showed.

Cardiff boys 'chased to their death by South Wales police', aunt claims

PA Media

The aunt of one of the teenage boys who died in an accident on an electric bike in Cardiff has accused South Wales police of causing their deaths.

Kyrees Sullivan, 16, and Harvey Evans, 15, died last Monday night shortly after they were seen on CCTV being followed by a police van.

Speaking to the BBC after a vigil for the pair, Harvey's aunt Hayley Murphy said "they were two children who were chased to their death by South Wales police".

Murphy also alleged police had arrested her nephew 30 times over the past two years but had never charged him.

Murphy said Harvey had been giving his best friend a lift home on the bike that had been an early 16th birthday present when they encountered police on Monday evening.

"Harvey had only just had this bike and didn't want to lose it. He turned back and the police gave chase," she alleged.

She said she waited at the police barrier with her sister, Harvey's mother, for more than two hours that night, "begging them to tell us if they were alive or dead, and they wouldn't tell us nothing".

Murphy said police officers "came to the house around four hours after it happened, about four hours in total, and they said 'there have been two fatalities but we cannot confirm who they are'".

"We knew it was Harvey, but we didn't get told until the family liaison officer came at around two o'clock the following day. How can you treat a family of a young boy like that?"

The family claimed they had no support for 17 hours, which they blamed on the riots that broke out after the boys' deaths.

Harvey's grandmother Dawn Rees said: "This is what we couldn't cope with, because they were lying on the floor. It was all down to the riots. We had no support for 17 hours and it was because of the riots."

South Wales police told the BBC they could not comment any further due to the investigation by the force and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

About 1,000 people attended a vigil for the boys on Friday night.



▲ *Harvey Evans and Kyrees Sullivan were riding an electric bike in Cardiff*

US is ready to fight in space if under threat, top military official says

Ian Sample
Science editor

The US is ready for conflict in outer space, according to a senior military official, after developing anti-satellite technologies to counter the threats posed by "provocative" countries such as Russia and China.

Brig Gen Jesse Morehouse at US Space Command, the arm of the military responsible for space operations, said Russian aggression and China's vision to become the dominant space power by midcentury had left the US with "no choice" but to prepare for orbital skirmishes.

"The United States of America is ready to fight tonight in space if we have to," Morehouse told reporters in a briefing at the US embassy in London. "If someone was to threaten the United States of America, or any of our interests, including those of our allies and partners with whom we have treaties of mutual defence support, we are ready to fight tonight."

Satellites underpin great swaths of modern life, from banking systems to weather forecasting, and are crucial for military operations through intelligence gathering, communications, navigation and guidance. But an overreliance on satellites means an attack on a country's orbital assets could have far-reaching consequences.

Four countries - China, the US, India and Russia - have tested anti-satellite capabilities by destroying their own satellites with missiles from the ground. But such demonstrations, which the US unilaterally banned last year, create vast clouds of debris that put other satellites at risk for decades.



▲ *A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket is launched carrying Nasa astronauts to the International Space Station*
PHOTOGRAPH: BILL INGALLS/GETTY

When Russia shot down one of its own satellites in 2021, the explosion showered its orbit with more than 1,500 trackable fragments. "When you create that debris cloud and it lingers on orbit for decades, it's almost like detonating a nuclear weapon in your own backyard," Morehouse said. "You pay the price too."

Faced with a new space race, Morehouse said the US would continue to develop anti-satellite technologies "not because we want to fight tonight, but because that's the best way to deter conflict from happening", adding it would do so "without engaging in irresponsible tests".

> *'We'll continue to develop capabilities to maintain a deterrence posture'*
>
> **Brig Gen Jesse Morehouse**

Russia and China are working on spacecraft capable of anti-satellite operations. In 2020, the US accused Russia of launching a projectile from one of two satellites that were trailing a US spy satellite.

Meanwhile, China has launched a satellite with a robotic arm capable of grabbing other satellites, and has developed a way to place explosives in the thruster nozzles of adversaries' satellites. The explosives are designed to go undetected for long periods, and when detonated resemble an innocent engine malfunction.

Beyond weapons that grab, crash into or shoot down their targets are other approaches that jam satellite broadcasts, or damage the hardware with lasers, chemical sprays or high-power microwaves.

"We have a variety of capabilities we can bring to bear and we'll continue to develop capabilities that allow us to maintain a credible deterrence posture," Morehouse said. "Can you develop a capability that can be used to counter satellites, that works very well, and validate that it works without having to create a debris cloud on orbit every time you do so? Absolutely."

After Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Elon Musk agreed to supply Starlink constellation satellites to Ukraine, which rapidly became crucial to the country's military. But in February, Starlink said it would prevent the satellites from being used to control Ukrainian drones, saying it never intended the technology to be used for "offensive purposes".

E-bike chargers that pose fire risk on sale online



◀ An e-scooter waits behind a bus in the City of London. Increasing sales of e-bikes and scooters are raising the fire risk, fire brigade chiefs say
PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE KEMP/ IN PICTURES/GETTY

Robert Booth
Social affairs correspondent

E-bike chargers that pose a risk of fire and electric shock have been found on sale on Amazon, eBay and Wish.com amid a sharp rise in blazes associated with battery-powered bicycles and scooters.

More than a dozen low-cost devices, several with substandard, unfused plugs, were on offer on all three websites, a Guardian investigation with the charity Electrical Safety First (ESF) found.

Fire brigades say incompatible chargers paired with the wrong lithium-ion batteries are a key source of e-bike and e-scooter fires that can quickly become catastrophic. Since 2020, eight people have been killed and at least 190 injured by e-bike and e-scooter fires in the UK.

A snapshot investigation this month revealed 15 different kinds of charger being offered on Amazon, eBay and Wish.com by British and Chinese sellers that were likely to breach UK safety regulations. Several had clover-shaped plugs that increase the risk of an electric shock. Technicians opened the plugs bought on Amazon and eBay and found they had no fuse.

Responding to the investigation, London fire brigade's deputy commissioner Dom Ellis said the risk of significant fires was increasing as sales of e-bikes and scooters grew. He urged the public to "always use the correct charger and buy an official one from a reputable seller".



▲ An e-scooter on fire in a home in Harlesden, London, this month

£5.36
The price of a scooter charger from China on offer on Wish.com. It has since been removed from the site

On Monday, 25 firefighters were called out to a house fire in Newham, east London, caused by an e-bike that had been left on to charge. In March, a man died and 17 were left homeless after a food courier's charging e-bike battery combusted in an overcrowded flat in Tower Hamlets, east London.

The National Fire Chiefs Council said: "When these batteries and chargers fail, they do so with ferocity – and because the fires develop so rapidly, the situation can quickly become incredibly serious."

Lesley Rudd, the chief executive of ESF, said: "Online marketplaces are failing to get to grips with substandard and dangerous products on their platforms. None of the devices we found should have been on sale."

The online retailers were warned last September by ESF to remove sellers who offered the devices and did so at the time. After being approached by the Guardian this week, all three websites withdrew the latest chargers identified.

Devices removed from Wish.com included a scooter charger from China that was on sale for just £5.36. The website launched "an extensive sweep for any similar and identical listings" and said it had informed affected customers.

Amazon removed five chargers, all imported from China with clover-shaped plugs, most of which came from Guangdong province, a big electronics manufacturing hub. It said safety was "a top priority" and that it required products to "comply with applicable laws and regulations".

An Amazon spokesperson said: "We will remove any similar products with non-compliant clover-shaped plugs that we find listed. If customers have concerns about an item they've purchased, we encourage them to contact us directly so we can investigate and take appropriate action."

Ebay, which advertised three devices at less than £20 each that ESF said were non-compliant, said keeping users safe was the company's "top priority" and that it was already "strengthening our processes to tackle this issue".

"We always contact anyone who has recently bought an item removed for product safety reasons," a spokesperson said. "If an unsafe product does make it on to the site, we swiftly remove it and provide product safety education to the sellers to prevent relisting."

A spokesperson for Wish.com said: "Merchants trading on our platform are required to adhere to local laws and safety standards, wherever their goods are sold … We are informing any impacted customers and will take any further action as appropriate."

Privatisation 'has led to more instability' for children in care

Tom Wall

The corporate takeover of children's care has led to more children moving between short-term, unstable placements far away from their families, according to new research.

The Oxford University study – which draws on more than 600,000 care records – reveals that 17,000 out-of-area placements in England can be attributed to the outsourcing of care to for-profit providers between 2011 and 2022.

The research also shows that growing private involvement in care provision has disrupted the lives of vulnerable children, with higher rates of outsourcing linked to more placements breaking down within two years, which is regarded as a benchmark of stability by the government.

"Our analysis shows that for-profit outsourcing is consistently associated with more children being placed out of area and placement instability," said the study's co-author, Dr Anders Bach-Mortensen from Oxford's department of social policy and intervention. "Over the past decade, we see that these outcomes have deteriorated or stagnated while for-profit outsourcing has increased."

> *'It was not something I could control. I cried all the way [there]'*
>
> **Jade Barnett**
> *Sent 200 miles away at 15*

Children taken into care can end up hundreds of miles from their communities and families. Jade Barnett, 21, who grew up in London, was sent 200 miles to a private children's home near Blackpool, Lancashire, when she was 15. "When I first found out [I was moving] I was angry because I had no say," she said. "But then the anger turned to tears because it was not something I could control. I cried all the way to Blackpool in the cab."

Over the past three decades, the private sector has almost completely taken over children's residential care, as local authorities have been encouraged by successive governments to outsource services.

A Department for Education spokesperson said local authorities have a responsibility to place children within 20 miles of their home.

Family pays tribute to 'beautiful' five-year-old girl killed in blaze

Haroon Siddique and agency

A five-year-old girl died after a house fire in Pembrokeshire, south-west Wales, officials said yesterday.

Alysia Salisbury was described as "a beautiful daughter and sister" in a tribute from her family released through Dyfed-Powys police. The force said it had attended a property in Pontyglasier, a village near Crymych, just before 10pm on Saturday.

Attempts were made to save Alysia's life but she died at the scene, police said. Mid and West Wales fire and rescue service, and the Welsh ambulance service and air ambulance all attended, in a major response by emergency services.

Det Ch Insp Llyr Williams said: "Our thoughts are with the family and the local community … officers will now work with colleagues from the fire service to establish the cause of the fire. The family request privacy at this difficult time."



◀ Alysia Salisbury died at the scene of the house fire in Pembrokeshire

Unearthing joy

Project to improve wellbeing of young people by digging deep into the past







▲ The scheme involves teenagers in heritage, including making roundhouses, top, and doing archaeological digs, above



Face painting with chalk paste

▲ A participant photographing finds at Coombe Bissett Down in Wiltshire, as part of a pilot scheme that Historic England plans to roll out across England

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS: WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Steven Morris

On a gently sloping hillside just outside the cathedral city of Salisbury, a group of teenagers are carefully sifting through the chalky earth in search of ancient signs of human life.

Their patience pays off when they uncover pieces of worked flint and fragments of pottery, evidence that this spot in the south-west of England has been settled over many hundreds of years since neolithic times.

This dig is part of a unique pilot project from Historic England to try to improve the wellbeing of young people who have challenges in their lives by involving them in archaeology and heritage.

The 13- and 14-year-olds have been exploring the idea of settlements and community in prehistoric Wiltshire. As well as digging, they have constructed shelters, built fires and drawn with ink made from alder cones.

"It's been great to see them," said Leigh Chalmers, the heritage inclusion manager for Wessex Archaeology, which is running the 12-week Rejuvenate project.

One of her highlights was a girl finding two pieces of pottery (possibly medieval rather than prehistoric) that fitted perfectly together. "She took a picture and sent them immediately to her mum and nan," Chalmers said.

"This project is all about exploring the potential of archaeology to have a positive impact on young people's sense of self, wellbeing and confidence. When they find something, they are beside themselves."

The dig was taking place at Coombe Bissett Down nature reserve, known for its wildflowers at this time of year, including harebells, bee orchids and Wiltshire's county flower, the burnt orchid. It is also a place of settlement, where neolithic, bronze and iron age and Roman artefacts have been found.

The teenagers were clearly loving the dig. "Metal detecting and digging is the most fun," said one. "It's quite hard going and it's like you are doing a chore, but it's a fun chore." Another said: "To discover something that has been used from so long ago that you have found by digging is really cool."

The project is inspired by the Operation Nightingale programme, which has been running since 2019, in which archaeology is used to help injured service personnel, and the aim is to roll it out across England.

A second eight-week pilot is being run in Kent for children supported by the county's youth justice team. There, as well as carrying out digs, participants are exploring wartime tunnels.

Duncan Wilson, the chief executive of Historic England, said: "This project is all about taking inspiration from history – and prehistory – to learn new skills, get active and build friendships focused on a common task away from the classroom."

Lena Rose, the safeguarding and welfare officer at St Joseph's Catholic school in Salisbury, said the children taking part were doing better back in the classroom. "We're starting to see benefits with an increase in focus and attendance."

Pencil 'owned by Hitler' is expected to fetch £50,000 at auction

Jessica Murray

A silver-plated pencil purported to have belonged to Adolf Hitler is going under the hammer in Belfast next month and is estimated to sell for between £50,000 and £80,000.

It is believed to have been a gift to the Nazi dictator from his long-term partner Eva Braun for his 52nd birthday on 20 April 1941.

The pencil, originally bought by a collector at an auction in 2002, is inscribed "Eva" on the side and the initials "AH" in the top.

The sale of wide-ranging historical items at Bloomfield Auctions in east Belfast on 6 June will also include an original signed photograph of Hitler and a rare hand-written pardon by Queen Victoria dated to 1869 for Irish rebels convicted of treason.

Karl Bennett, managing director of the auction house, said they expected interest from around the world.

"The importance of Hitler's engraved personal pencil lies in the fact that it helps to unravel a hidden piece of history, giving a unique insight into Hitler's personal relationships, which he scrupulously kept hidden from the public eye," he said.

"Much of Hitler's personal appeal during his dictatorship derived from his carefully constructed identity as the father of the German nation, who rejected personal connection in favour of loyalty to his country.

"This love token of a personalised pencil from Eva on his birthday helps reveal the deception behind Hitler's public facade."

Bennett said careful research and discussion with the item vendor about where the item was obtained "give me confidence that what I'm telling people I'm selling is the actual item".

He added that he could understand why people may have reservations about selling and collecting items belonging to the dictator.

"But for me, as a high-end collector of militaria items, they preserve a piece of our past and should be treated as historical objects, no matter if the history they refer to was one of the darkest and most controversial in recorded history," he said.



▲ The silver-plated pencil has the initials AH inscribed in the top

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PHOTOGRAPH: RICK FINDLER/STORY PICTURE

World wide webs Fans dressed as different types of Spider-Man pose for photographs on the final day of the MCM London Comic Con. Tens of thousands of cosplay fans descended on the capital for the three-day event at the ExCel centre.

Pregnant woman who escaped from Sudan gives birth to 'miracle boy'

Diane Taylor

A heavily pregnant woman who was shot at, escaped an overturned car and had to walk for hours in the middle of the night to reach a border crossing with her three-year-old daughter has given birth to a miracle baby, her husband has said.

The woman had been trapped in the war-torn Sudanese capital Khartoum after fighting broke out last month, while her husband who works as a carer in Wolverhampton tried to get her a UK visa.

The couple, both 25, are Eritrean refugees who cannot be named for security reasons. The husband was granted refugee status after claiming asylum in the UK, and applied to the Home Office for a refugee family reunion visa in February 2022.

His wife and daughter were waiting in Khartoum before the fighting started as it was safer there than in Eritrea. The wife became pregnant after her husband visited her and their daughter in Khartoum in the autumn of last year.

However, once the fighting started in Sudan the flat she was staying in was hit by shelling. With food and water scarce, and little access to medical treatment, the woman decided to try to make her way to Egypt.

"We didn't tell our daughter anything about the war in Khartoum because we didn't want to frighten her," the husband said. "She could hear the sound of gunfire in Khartoum but my wife told her not to worry because it was just fireworks. My wife and daughter had to leave everything behind when they escaped from Khartoum.

"My wife just took our marriage certificate and my daughter took one small bear with her she called Mohammed. She asked to name her little brother after her bear."

They embarked on a terrifying four-day journey from Khartoum to the Egyptian border via the city of Madani using various forms of transport including lorry, bus and taxi.

At one point a wheel came off the car they were travelling in and it overturned, injuring passengers. The woman and her daughter were unharmed and managed to negotiate a price to continue their journey.



▲ *The boy was born safely in Cairo*

'The safe arrival of our baby is a miracle and he is a sign of hope for the future'

Eritrean refugee
On his wife giving birth

The journey culminated in a walk of several hours from Port Sudan to an Egyptian border crossing in the middle of the night. Knowing that she was heavily pregnant, other refugees helped to carry her daughter on the final leg of their search for safety.

Against all the odds the baby, a boy, was born healthy in the peaceful setting of a hospital in Cairo early in the morning of 24 May. The birth went so well that mother and baby were discharged within hours.

The husband is desperately trying to expedite bringing his family to the UK. He accused the Home Office of putting the family's lives at risk because of the long delays.

While the government is urging refugees to use safe and legal routes rather than crossing the Channel in small boats, refugee resettlement numbers have reduced by 75% since 2019 and family reunion visas are 40% lower than pre-pandemic levels.

At the time the couple applied for family reunion, Home Office processing standard was 12 weeks. When the family's UK lawyer enquired about the delay in February of this year, a year after the application was submitted, an official said in an email that the Home Office was experiencing "considerable delays" in family reunion decision making and would not be able to provide an updated timescale for a decision.

The husband said: "I hope the family reunion visa application will be processed very soon. The safe arrival of our baby is a miracle and he is a sign of hope for the future."

Babel novelist rejects idea authors should not write about other races

Lucy Knight

The author of Babel and The Poppy War, Rebecca F Kuang, has said she finds the idea that authors should only write about characters of their own race "deeply frustrating and pretty illogical".

Speaking at the Hay festival, the author, who was born in China but moved to the US when she was four, said that there is a "really weird kind of identity politics going on in American publishing". She is "sympathetic" to an extent, as it is coming from "decades of frustration of seeing the same racist, uncritical, under-researched, shallow stereotypes".

The problem, Kuang thinks, is that this has now "spiralled into this really strict and reductive understanding of race". As a result, a movement that began as a call for more authentic stories about marginalised communities "gets flipped around and weaponised against the marginalised writers to pigeonhole them into telling only certain kinds of stories".

The issue is addressed in Kuang's recent novel, Yellowface, in which a white writer claims a dead Chinese friend's manuscript as her own. When the book becomes a huge success it sparks a debate about the supposed author's right to tell the story.

Kuang was critical of those who believe that "the only people getting book deals right now are BIPOC [Black, Indigenous and people of colour] writers", including Joyce Carol Oates, who tweeted last year that editors do not want to look at debuts by white male writers. Oates "really just needs to get off Twitter", Kuang joked, adding "if you just walk into a bookstore you know that's not true."

Kuang also had "mixed feelings" about another contentious issue in the publishing world, sensitivity readers. "I've always found it really weird to pay somebody to tell you if you've accidentally been racist," she added. "I think you should be able to do the research to know yourself."

However, she did use four sensitivity readers when writing Babel – which follows a group of language students at Victorian-era Oxford University who get drawn into the first opium war. She was not, however, treating them as people who would police her work.



▲ *Rebecca F Kuang's novels draw on her Chinese heritage*

World

Kyiv bombarded by biggest drone attack yet on city's founding day


▲ The remains of a Shahed drone



Julian Borger
Kyiv

Russia unleashed the biggest drone attack against Kyiv of the war so far as the city prepared to mark the annual celebration of its founding – but according to Ukrainian military officials, almost all the Iranian-made aircraft were shot down.

The air force said it shot down 52 out of 54 Shahed drones launched against the city in successive waves, but falling debris still killed one man, injured two people, and set ablaze the roof of a shopping centre.

The attack appeared to come from the north and south and at low altitudes. A spokesperson from Ukraine's operational command south said Russia appeared to be seeking ways of evading steadily improving air defences.

"The enemy traditionally used the eastern coast of the Azov Sea to attack, but the routes of these aircraft were somewhat unconventional," the spokesperson said. "They tried to bypass southern air defences as much as possible … They mostly flew over the temporarily occupied territories and dispersed across Ukraine."

She added: "They are trying to gravitate towards riverbeds to hide the direction of movement of the Shahed groups. We continue to study new approaches in tactics to be as effective as possible."

Military observers have suggested that a goal of the constant stream of Russian attacks is to exhaust Ukrainian air defence ammunition using cheap Iranian drones.

Ukrainian officials have told western capitals that a shortage of anti-aircraft missiles is one of their most pressing concerns ahead of a planned spring counteroffensive.

The drone attacks came in the early hours of Kyiv Day, the annual celebration of the city's founding 1,541 years ago, marked by street fairs and live concerts.

"The history of Ukraine is a long-standing irritant for the insecure Russians," Andriy Yermak, the head of Volodymyr Zelenskiy's office, said.

Serhiy Popko, the head of the capital's military administration, said on Telegram: "Today, the enemy decided to 'congratulate' the people of Kyiv on Kyiv Day with the help of their deadly UAVs [unmanned aerial vehicles]. The attack was carried out in several waves, and the air alert lasted more than five hours."

52
Shahed drones that Ukraine's air force says it shot down, out of 54 launched at the city in waves



▲ *A firefighter battles a blaze in a building set alight by falling debris and, left, others check a damaged building. One man was killed and two people injured in the drone attack on Kyiv*
PHOTOGRAPHS: PAVLO PETROV/STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE OF UKRAINE/AFP/GETTY; VALENTYN OGIRENKO/REUTERS

In some parts of the city, local people, inured to Russian air raids, stood on their balconies shouting slogans praising Ukrainian air defences and defying Vladimir Putin and Russia.

During the day, crowds filled the streets of the city centre, where stalls had been set up selling handicrafts, Ukrainian flags and T-shirts. Men and women wore the *vyshyvanka*, the traditional embroidered blouse, in celebration of a summer festival tinged with defiance.

"Pieces of a drone came down just 400 metres from my mother's house," said Okseniya, who was selling homemade beaded necklaces. "She is so scared today. But people continue to live their lives because you cannot be affected all the time.

"You need to continue to work, meet your friends, eat ice-cream, go to a live event, a concert or a party. It's like the values of your life have changed. You appreciate your life more because you feel like you can die every minute."

The rifts the invasion has opened up in the Russian leadership were on display yesterday as the head of the Wagner mercenary group railed against the Kremlin hierarchy, accusing it of imposing a news blackout on him to block his criticisms of the way the war is being pursued.

"Wagner is not a piece of slippery soap which the bureaucrats have got used to shoving all over the place. Wagner is an awl, a stiletto that you cannot hide," Yevgeny Prigozhin said.

"I am absolutely convinced they have forbidden coverage. That high-level bureaucrats, those very towers of the Kremlin, are trying to shut the mouths of everyone so that they don't speak about Wagner, will only give another shove to the people."

Such an approach, he added, would provoke a backlash from the Russian public. "In the long term, two or three months, they will get a rap on the knuckles from the people."

'Our deserted island'
Historic skate park reborn in New York
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Breed all about it
Japanese town that bucks birthrate trend
Page 24

'Each one is a war crime'

The Ukrainian children 'adopted' by Russians

Peter Beaumont
Odesa

The stories told to Svitlana Popova's 15-year-old daughter, Alina, while she lived under Russian occupation in Ukraine's southern Kherson province were designed to terrify her. Yvgenia, the pro-Russian mother of Alina's best friend, spun her a web of lies. Alina and her family, the woman insisted, had taken food aid from the Russian-imposed administration. When the fast-approaching Ukrainian forces came into Kherson, she added, they would hurt anyone who had been in contact with the Russians.

Alina told the Guardian that she had felt Yvgenia was her friend. When the woman suggested fleeing to Russia for "safety", the scared girl agreed. The reality was darker. Yvgenia saw caring for Alina as a way to get money and a better apartment from social services in Russia. Once across the border, she became abusive.

Thousands of children have been kidnapped and taken to Russia since Moscow's fullscale invasion of Ukraine in February last year. Alina is one of the lucky few hundred who have been returned after her mother, helped by volunteers, made the frightening and circuitous journey to Russia to plead her case before the country's social services.

According to the Ukrainian government, 16,226 children have been deported to Russia, of whom 10,513 have been located and more than 300 have returned. Some fear the numbers of missing could be an underestimate. Unaccompanied children, some whose parents were killed during the siege of Mariupol, have disappeared into a Kremlin-sanctioned system now under investigation by the international criminal court.

The experience of the Popova family, and others who spoke to the Guardian, sheds light on another aspect of the removal of Ukrainian children to Russia: how friends and even relatives took children, sometimes for mercenary reasons.

"This woman lied to Alina," said Svitlana. "I told Alina it was all a lie, but she believed it and stole her birth certificate and went with her."

Tracking her daughter down via social media, she found Alina had been taken to a village 1,500km (930 miles) inside Russia. "I was so scared," said Alina. "Yvgenia was so friendly when I was in Ukraine but she tricked me. When she knew I was talking to my mother she became angry and hit me. She was obsessed with money and what she could get from the authorities for looking after me."

In order to get her daughter back, there was only one option for Svitlana: to travel to Russia via a "terrifying" route through Poland and Belarus to appeal to the social services in an enemy country.

"It sounds strange, but the authorities were on my side. They were angry she had taken Alina to Russian territory," Svitlana said.

"But they also said that if I had come four days later, the woman would have organised a Russian ID for Alina. Then she would have been Russian and there was nothing they could do."

If Alina and Svitlana were lucky in being reunited, they represent a tiny minority of separated families whose children have been able to return to Ukraine. Most relatives of kidnapped children are unwilling to talk about the issue for fear it might complicate efforts to retrieve them. In a notorious case, a group of abducted Ukrainian children from Mariupol were paraded at a rally in Moscow in February.

"We're not sure how many children are involved," said the former children's ombudsman Mykola Kuleba, who now runs the Save Ukraine rescue network that helps parents like Svitlana.

"It's not only unaccompanied children who have been sent to camps in Russia, and kids kidnapped from boarding schools and orphanages. We're not sure how many we are talking about. In some cases we are talking about children who were in occupied areas while the rest of their family stayed in Ukrainian-controlled areas.

"They are afraid they will never see them again. Then we need to talk about the children who are now in Russia who we know nothing about. Children whose parents have been imprisoned after being separated at the filtration camps or whose parents have been killed. We are most concerned for those children who have been missing for six months and more where Russian authorities have prepared birth certificates and passports and sent them to foster families."

As in Alina's case, Kuleba said he had heard of other Ukrainian children being taken for financial benefit. "One boy we rescued from a Russian school said he had been with another boy from Mariupol who had been placed with a very poor family of alcoholics. He was ignored and hungry every day. To me that suggests they fostered him for money to buy alcohol."

Despite the successes of his group in repatriating Ukrainian children, Kuleba had detected "a change for the worse" in the attitude of the Russian authorities. "They understand each of these cases is a war crime and they are increasingly trying to block returns."

> *'I was so scared. She was obsessed with money and what she could get for me'*
>
> **Alina Popova**
> *Kidnapped Ukrainian*

▼ *Children apparently taken from Ukraine were paraded at a pro-Putin rally in Moscow in February*
PHOTOGRAPH: SKY NEWS





▲ *Mimi Castle in Chișinău, where the European Political Community is meeting for only the second time*
PHOTOGRAPH: VLADISLAV CULIOMZA/REUTERS

European leaders meet in Moldova in new show of support

Lisa O'Carroll
Brussels correspondent

The European Union is stepping up support for Moldova as 46 EU and European leaders descend on its capital in a show of financial and political solidarity in the face of the threat from Russia.

Nestled between Ukraine and the EU, the country of 2.6 million people will be catapulted on to the international stage on Thursday when the European Political Community (EPC) meets for the second time, eight months after its inaugural meeting, which was attended by Liz Truss.

Initially envisaged by the French president, Emmanuel Macron, as a platform for unity across a wider European front, it brings together the leaders of the 27 EU member states and those of other countries including the Balkan nations, Ukraine, Turkey and the UK.

Top of the agenda will be security and energy supplies that have been part-funded by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Over the years the EBRD has pumped a total of €2bn (£1.74bn) into Moldova's economy and helped it secure gas supplies.

Last year, the EBRD invested €525m into the country's economy. At 4% of its GDP, this is a record investment by the bank and a five-fold increase on 2021, and came as the country struggled with high inflation and the fallout of the war, along with the presence of some Russian troops in Transnistria, a breakaway region and post-Soviet conflict zone.

On energy, the bank specifically lent the government €300m to diversify its suppliers away from Russia, which last year offered cheaper gas in exchange for Moldova weakening ties with the EU.

In the face of such open Russian manoeuvres, the EU will be backing up the financial muscle provided by the EBRD and an €87m EU contribution to non-military logistical aid with a civilian mission in the capital, Chișinău, at the invitation of Moldova. It will be staffed by up to 50 officials and open tomorrow, with the aim of building the country's resilience against disinformation and cyber-attacks, and will include support at strategic and technical levels.

The mission will initially have a mandate for two years and will parallel an existing EU hub that is providing support in six key areas including human smuggling and trafficking, violent extremism, cybercrime and drug trafficking.

Last week, Moldova's prime minister, Dorin Recean, said that before the Ukraine war his country was 100% dependent on Russia for its gas. "Today Moldova can exist with absolutely no natural gas or electricity from Russia," he said.

The country's president, Maia Sandu, is expected to use the EPC summit to push for quicker access to the EU, something she sees as the only guarantee against becoming Russia's next target.

"We do believe that Russia will continue to be a big source of instability for the years to come and we need to protect ourselves," said Sandu on the sidelines of a Council of Europe summit in Iceland two weeks ago.

She added: "We do believe that this [EU membership] is a realistic project for us and we are looking forward to see this happening as soon as possible."

Last year Ukraine and Moldova won official candidate status to join the EU along with Georgia, but accession could take years to achieve.

> **€525m**
> *Record amount the EBRD invested last year into Moldova's economy, equivalent to 4% of its GDP*

'A place to call our own' New York resurrects pioneering skate park



▲ *A skateboarder performs a trick at the newly opened Gotham skate park under Brooklyn Bridge in New York*
PHOTOGRAPH: DEAN MOSES/AMNY

Edward Helmore
New York

Brooklyn Bridge, built to connect once separate cities, is 140 years old this year. And under the roadways on the Manhattan side are a series of sloping red-brick embankments that in the 1980s were the birthplace of a gritty New York street-style of skateboarding - the Brooklyn Banks.

Last week, the New York City mayor, Eric Adams, reopened the cambered banks - "waves" - and paid tribute to the pioneers who helped turn the kick-flips and grinds of teenage outsiders into a global culture industry.

Adams said he had been a skateboarder and knew a few moves. "I'm going to brush up on them, come out here and do a few tricks." But he also made a larger point about city life. "Everyone needs open space. We witnessed that during Covid how people needed those spaces to come and sit down and enjoy the recreation that's attached to it, so this is an exciting moment."

> *'It was a secret place, a place you had freedom and no one bothered you'*
>
> **Steve Rodriguez**
> *Skateboarder*

The banks were closed off more than a decade ago to make space for roadway repair equipment. Then pressure from community groups, aided by skateboarding aficionados, convinced a receptive city administration that the historic skate mecca merited attention as part of a $375m revitalisation of public areas close to Chinatown.

"It was a secret place, a place you had freedom to move about and no one bothered you," recalled Steve Rodriguez, who first came aged 15 and is now co-owner of 5Boro, a skateboard and apparel company. "No one cared about the space, so the skateboarders adopted it. It was a place to call our own."

The space wasn't limited to skateboarding - BMX bikers, graffiti artists, breakdancers and rollerbladers were all part of the banks community. "It was an ideal scenario - a melting pot. There were no rules down here," Rodriguez said, recalling that artists like Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat were also hanging around.

Rodriguez has been fighting for the banks, now officially called Gotham Park, since the early 2000s, when a reduction in space was first threatened. In 2010, the city closed them, ostensibly to repaint the underside of the roadways. But they were not automatically returned, and some of the red bricks were torn up. The city parks department runs about 40 skate parks, but few have the appeal of lost spaces with walls, benches and stair rails to perform tricks on.

"When we were at the banks, no one knew we were there. We had nothing - the banks, a 25-cent juice, Burger King down the block, a supermarket and ourselves," said Alex Corporan, who went on to become manager of the Supreme store in Nolita. "There were no parents allowed, or better no parents knew where the hell we were except that we'd come home for dinner at some point. It was so soulful, there was no agenda. We just wanted to be with each other."

At the opening, Corporan said he saw that same desire in the kids trying out the banks. "I could see they want to emulate that same energy. It was beautiful," he said.

That feeling of finding a sanctuary was echoed by many. "We were on our own deserted island, a place where you were not disturbed by any outside forces - you had the whole place to yourself," said Jefferson Pang, a former professional skateboarder. Pang said the revival was important to the global skate community. "Brooklyn Banks was always the No 1, and definitely one of the biggest and well-known spots in the world," he said.

THE ENERGY ACT 2004

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR SAFETY ZONE SCHEME DURING CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SOFIA OFFSHORE WIND FARM THE ELECTRICITY (OFFSHORE GENERATING STATIONS) (SAFETY ZONES) (APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND CONTROL OF ACCESS) REGULATIONS 2007 – STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 2007 NO 1948

Notice is hereby given that Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Limited (company number 07791964), with registered offices at Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 6PB has applied for consent from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero as set out in the Energy Act 2004 and the Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Application Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007 (SI No 2007/1948) (2007 Regulations) for safety zones as detailed below, for the consented Sofia Offshore Wind Farm during construction and periods of major maintenance during the operational phase.

The following safety zones are being applied for:

- "Rolling" 500 metre (m) safety zone established around each Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) or Offshore Converter Platform (OCP), and / or their foundations, whilst construction work is being performed, as indicated by the presence of a construction vessel(s);
- Pre-Commissioning 50m safety zones established around any WTG or OCP which is either partially completed or constructed where a construction vessel is not present prior to commissioning of the wind farm; and
- 500m safety zones around all major maintenance being undertaken around a WTG or OCP, as denoted by the presence of a major maintenance vessel ("major maintenance" as defined within the 2007 Regulations).

Details of the safety zones will be provided via Notice to Mariners prior to the commencement of any construction and major maintenance operations. Further details including in relation to how the safety zones will be managed once implemented are provided in the supporting safety zone application, which can be obtained by emailing a request to **Comms_sofia@rwe.com**.

Any person wishing to make representations to the Secretary of State about the application should do so by email to the Secretary of State, Energy Infrastructure Planning Team, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero at **beiseip@beis.gov.uk** stating the name of the proposal and nature of their representations, not later than 28 days from the date or latest date of publication of the notice.

Conservatives set for huge win in Spain's regional elections



▲ *Isabel Díaz Ayuso, PP regional president in Madrid, casts her vote*

Sam Jones
Madrid

Spain's opposition conservative People's party (PP) is heading for an emphatic win following yesterday's key regional and municipal elections, winning an absolute majority in the city of Madrid and in the surrounding area, and poised to wrest the regions of Valencia, Aragón and the Balearic islands from the ruling Spanish Socialist Workers' party (PSOE).

The PP's triumph, which comes after a bitter and fractious campaign marred by a row over the defunct terrorist organisation Eta and allegations of electoral fraud, will serve as a huge boost to the party ahead of December's general election.

The results of the polls in 12 regions and more than 8,000 municipal councils also indicate a return to the traditional, two-party system that dominated Spanish politics before the eruption of the far-left, anti-austerity Podemos and the now moribund centre-right Citizens party.

By 11.30pm, with more than 98% of the municipal votes counted, the PP had attracted 31.5% of the vote and won 23,248 council seats, while the PSOE had taken 28.1% of the vote and won 20,676 seats.

The incumbent PP mayor of Madrid, José Luis Martínez-Almeida, secured an absolute majority in the capital, while his party also won the most seats on the city councils of Seville, Segovia, Valencia and Palma. With 60% of the votes counted in the Madrid region, the PP had won 69 seats in the 136 seat regional parliament, giving its rightwing populist regional president, Isabel Díaz Ayuso, an absolute majority.

In Barcelona, the city's leftwing mayor, Ada Colau, was relegated to third place. Xavier Trias, a former mayor who belongs to the centre-right Catalan pro-independence party Junts, finished first and Jaume Collboni of the Catalan branch of the PSOE came second.

The PP had sought to use the polls as a referendum on the Socialist prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, and his style of government, which it calls *sanchismo* and depicts as incompetent, over-reaching and hellbent on remaining in office.

"These aren't just elections to choose a mayor or a regional government," the PP leader, Alberto Núñez Feijóo, said in an end-of-campaign rally on Friday. "*Sanchismo* has stained everything and I'm afraid to have to say, respectfully but sadly, that the prime minister of my country has no limits. His party has been unable to stop him and so we must do so together as Spaniards."

Sánchez struck a less combative note after casting his vote yesterday, urging people to ignore the rows of recent days. "It's very important that we all go and vote and that we do so in a positive way, forgetting this intolerance, this noise, this depreciation and these tensions that a minority are trying to stoke," he said.

He began the campaign hoping to stress his coalition government's economic record and housing reforms. But it descended into rancour after it emerged that the Basque nationalist party, EH Bildu – on whose support the minority government relies in Congress – was fielding 44 convicted Eta members, including seven found guilty of violent crimes, as candidates.

Sánchez criticised Bildu's decision – describing it as legal but "obviously indecent" – and the Basque party later announced that the seven with violence convictions would not take up their seats, but the PP seized on the issue as further proof of the government's hunger to remain in power.



Venetian mystery The water near the Rialto bridge in Venice's main canal turned green yesterday. Authorities were trying to discover the cause, the fire department said.

PHOTOGRAPH: VIGILI DEL FUOCO/REUTERS

Biden and Republicans on brink of deal to raise US debt ceiling

Joanna Walters
New York

Democratic and Republican negotiators were ironing out the final details yesterday of a deal to raise the US debt ceiling, struck between President Joe Biden and the Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, with the aim of putting it before Congress and avoiding a catastrophic default.

Biden and McCarthy held a 90-minute phone call on Saturday evening, with the Democratic US president joining the call from the Camp David retreat and the Republican House speaker in Washington.

Biden said: "The agreement represents a compromise, which means not everyone gets what they want. That's the responsibility of governing." He called the pact "an important step forward".

McCarthy said: "America wins on this one", but he will have to get the legislation through the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, where his party holds only a five-seat majority.

He faces hostility from hard-right Republicans, who are expected to balk at spending cuts that they deem not deep enough. Despite their strong opposition to cuts, progressives may be more likely to pass the deal in order to avoid economic chaos.

> ***'A compromise means not everyone gets what they want'***
>
> **Joe Biden**
> *US president*

McCarthy boasted on Fox News Sunday that "there's not one thing in the bill for Democrats", even though Biden achieved his fundamental goal of persuading the Republican to agree to a debt ceiling increase.

To meet Republicans' demands, spending would be held flat for 2024 and limits imposed for 2025. That is in exchange for raising the debt limit for two years.

The US treasury secretary, Janet Yellen, has warned of a default on the country's debt obligations by 5 June if lawmakers do not raise the debt ceiling. That could send the US into a deep recession.

Smoke rings

France's fight against illegal production of cigarettes

Angelique Chrisafis
Paris

France's government has warned of an "explosion" in contraband cigarettes since the pandemic. Men selling cheap packets near Parisian stations are so commonplace that some residents' groups deem greater Paris a "giant, open-air, illegal tobacconist".

The cigarette wars are a sign of deeper problems. International criminal gangs are putting millions of euros into setting up illegal cigarette factories in western Europe, and France is a key target market – it has among the highest taxes on cigarettes in the EU, with the average pack about €11 (£9.50).

At the bottom of the chain, the men selling packets on the street are often without legal papers, vulnerable to gangs and making a tiny profit to survive. Those who buy the cigarettes say they cannot make ends meet, so are prepared risk the €135 fine if they're caught.

More than a third of cigarettes smoked in France in 2021 were bought illegally, according to KPMG research, funded by the tobacco industry. French authorities seized 600 tonnes of contraband cigarette products in the first 10 months of last year, more than twice the amount captured in 2020.

"If there weren't buyers, there wouldn't be any sellers; you see all types of people coming to buy the cigarettes," said Sandrine, a worker at a brasserie near Hoche metro station. Her restaurant had lost customers who feared turf wars outside. "My boss has lost 80% of turnover on our pavement tables. The sellers think they control the street. I live above the restaurant and I don't feel safe," she said.

A turning point came this year when gendarmes raided a vast illegal cigarette factory near Rouen, Normandy, and found nine workers, Moldovans and Greeks, sleeping on camp beds and cut off from the outside world. Police estimated the production line made 250 cigarettes a minute. At least 19.4m cigarettes and 15 tonnes of tobacco were seized, with the black market value estimated at €17m.

Gangs are moving production closer to markets such as France or the UK. Setting up an illegal factory can cost more than €1m, says Sebastian Bley, of Europol, the EU's police agency. In 2021, Europol reported 74 illegal cigarette factories in the EU, up from 47 in 2018. Bley said gangs worked together setting up factories and distribution, but rivalries were common. He said: "They are willing to use violence against each other."

Eyewitness



Kielder Forest, Northumberland
Tawny owl chicks in the forest, where an increase in the vole population has produced a mini baby owl boom
PHOTOGRAPH: OWEN HUMPHREYS/PA WIRE



Modi opens new parliament building amid boycott by opposition parties

Hannah Ellis-Petersen
Delhi

India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, inaugurated a new parliament building yesterday amid a boycott resulting in at least 20 opposition parties refusing to attend the ceremony.

The vast new, triangular shaped complex in the heart of Delhi will house the country's upper and lower parliamentary houses. It sits adjacent to the old circular parliament building which was constructed in 1927 during the colonial era, which will now be converted into a museum.

Modi, dressed in traditional attire, took part in several prayer rituals in an inauguration ceremony that was heavy on religious Hindu symbolism, drawing criticism that it was not in line with the secular democracy that the building is meant to enshrine.

"May this iconic building be a cradle of empowerment," said Modi in a tweet after the ceremony. "May it propel our great nation to new heights of progress."

Hundreds of members of the opposition parties were conspicuous by their absence. Last week, they had come together to announce a boycott of the ceremony, arguing it should be the president, who is largely a ceremonial figure, not Modi who inaugurated the parliament building, calling it a violation of the constitution and parliamentary procedure.

Since Modi was elected in 2014, he has been accused of dismantling democracy in India and overseeing an unprecedented centralisation of power. In an open letter, opposition groups described Modi's Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) government as "authoritarian" and said Modi's decision "to inaugurate the Parliament building by himself, completely sidelining President [Droupadi] Murmu, is not only a grave insult but a direct assault on our democracy … When the soul of democracy has been sucked out [of] Parliament, we find no value in a new building."





▲ *The new triangular parliament building in Delhi stands next to the old circular parliament, built in 1927. Left, Narendra Modi at the inauguration with the sengol*
PHOTOGRAPH: PIB/REUTERS

The BJP hit back, calling on opposition parties not to "politicise" the ceremony.

Speaking after yesterday's inauguration, Supriya Sule, an MP from Congress, the largest opposition party, questioned how the government could go ahead without participation of the opposition.

"To open a new parliament building without the opposition makes it an incomplete event," she said. "It means there is no democracy in the country."

The £100m new parliament project had attracted controversy from the start, with the Modi government accused of rebuilding the nation's corridors of power in its own image as part of its nationalistic political agenda. Launching the project in 2020, Modi had said the new building would "become a witness to the creation of a self-reliant India".

It was built at speed, taking less than three years, with an apparent unspoken deadline to have it completed before the 2024 general election when Modi will be seeking a third term in office.

The overall development, known as the Central Vista project, cost nearly £2bn and involved building a new government secretariat and a new prime minister's residence and office. There were accusations of a lack of transparency after it was awarded to the architect Bimal Patel, who is from Modi's home state of Gujarat and has been granted some of the most high profile government projects in recent years.

But the government and the project's architects had argued that the old building was no longer fit for purpose and could not be adapted. The new complex is three times larger and has room to seat more than 1,200 MPs, 500 more than the original parliament. India has 800 representatives across the upper and lower houses, but the numbers are up for review in 2026. Given the increase in India's population to 1.4 billion people, the number of MPs could rise.

According to the architect, materials and designs had been brought in from all over India to reflect the country's cultural diversity and different architectural styles, including marble from Rajasthan and teak from Maharashtra.

A sacred sengol, a gold sceptre from the southern state of Tamil Nadu that is said to have been received by India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, on independence in 1947, was also placed by Modi in the new parliament chamber.

Baby boomtown Does Nagi hold the secret to repopulating Japan?

Justin McCurry
Nagi

Set against mountains and forests, Nagi basks beneath a cobalt sky, reflected in symmetrical rows of submerged rice paddies. But there is more to this town in western Japan than pretty views and agricultural output. Nagi is producing what much of Japan lacks: children.

On a recent afternoon, groups of children stopped off at the contemporary art museum on their way home from school. Nearby, adults struggled to be heard above the din of excitable preschoolers. It is the sound of a community defying Japan's stubbornly low birthrate, and by some margin. Nagi's fertility rate more than doubled from 1.4 to 2.95 in 2019, dropping slightly to 2.68 in 2021 – still more than twice the national average of 1.3. Japan's population is predicted to fall from 125 million today to 87 million in 2070.

Amid warnings from the prime minister, Fumio Kishida, that the birthrate threatens Japan's ability to function, the town's 5,700 residents may have found the answer. Nagi has earned the nickname of Japan's "miracle town" through financial incentives and involving the whole community in bringing up its children. That approach can be seen at Nagi Child Home, where for ¥300 (£1.70) an hour parents leave their children with other mothers, staff and older volunteers while they go shopping or see a doctor. A staff member is on hand to offer advice on everything from breastfeeding to temper tantrums.

"We're trying to make bringing up children enjoyable by taking away the anxiety parents can have about finances, or if their child becomes ill. It allows them to balance their family and working lives," said Takamasa Matsushita, a father of two and head of the town's information and planning division. "Doing something about the declining birthrate is not just about children. We're taking a holistic approach, and that's why we try to get older residents involved."

Yukie Kaneko, who has two girls, aged three and three months, said: "I come here about three times a week. It's really useful because our children wouldn't have the opportunity to play with each other without it. It's much better than staying at home all day."

The 28-year-old said she and her husband had talked about having a third, or even fourth, child. They are not alone. According to town statistics, 47% of Nagi households have three or more children. "In Japanese cities, children are seen as noisy and disruptive, which is why you have bans on playing football and baseball in public parks," said Matsushita. "But here, we love the sound of children's voices."



▲ *Yuko Sugawara, left, and Manami Kuroyabu at a Nagi daycare centre*

2.68

The fertility rate in Nagi, western Japan. The national average is less than half this level, at 1.3

Young families are eligible for financial benefits, including a payment of ¥100,000 on the birth of each child. Children receive free healthcare and families don't pay for textbooks until pupils complete compulsory education at 15. School meals are subsidised and the town offers three-bedroom homes for a comparatively low monthly rent of ¥50,000.

Yuko Sugawara, who has a one-year-old girl and is pregnant, said cash handouts were only part of Nagi's attraction. "We want our daughter to have a little brother and sister," she said. "It would be a shame if she were to grow up as an only child. And when you look around and see families with three or even four children, you think, we can do that too."

Workplace pensions
Women missing out, TUC says
Page 26



Business

Two-thirds of online shopping scams in UK 'start on Meta sites'

Rupert Jones

More than two-thirds of all online shopping scams affecting UK consumers start on Facebook and Instagram, with social media now a "wild west" for fraud, according to one of Britain's biggest banks.

Research from Lloyds Banking Group estimates that someone in the UK falls victim to a purchase scam originating on one of the two Meta-owned platforms every seven minutes – costing consumers more than £500,000 a week.

Lloyds said tech companies needed to contribute to refunds when their platforms are used "to defraud innocent victims".

The intervention demonstrates a hardening of the battle lines between Britain's banks and the tech firms – in particular Meta, which in addition to Facebook and Instagram also owns WhatsApp. Lloyds is the second bank in a month to publicly name Meta, after TSB said there had been a huge jump in the number of scams originating from sites and apps owned by the California-based company.

The banking industry body UK Finance has accused social media companies of "profiting" from scams taking place on their platforms and called on them to reimburse victims.

The growth in online shopping has been accompanied by a surge in criminals tricking people into paying for goods and services that do not exist. Victims are lured by the promise of cut-price or hard-to-find items, and are typically asked to send money directly from their account via bank transfer. Lloyds said that sometimes users "don't know if the user profile and item are genuine".

Clothes, trainers, gaming consoles and mobile phones were among the most common goods being falsely advertised, said Lloyds.

The banking group said its research – based on an analysis of reported cases among its 25 million-plus retail customers – found that 68% of all purchase scams now started on Facebook (including its Marketplace site) and Instagram. This accounts for about 40% of the total amount lost to this type of scam, it added.

Combining its data with the latest industry figures, UK consumers are losing more than £27m a year through purchase scams originating from the two platforms, the bank said.

Liz Ziegler, the banking group's fraud prevention director, said: "Social media has become the wild west of online shopping in recent years … This has left consumers increasingly exposed to ruthless fraudsters, with hundreds of new victims targeted every day and tens of millions of pounds flowing to organised crime gangs each year."

£27m
UK consumers' annual loss to shopping scams on Facebook and Instagram, according to Lloyds

She added: "It's high time tech companies stepped up to share responsibility for protecting their own customers. This means stopping scams at source and contributing to refunds when their platforms are used to defraud innocent victims."

On 5 May, TSB said Meta-owned sites and apps accounted for 80% of cases within the bank's three largest fraud categories: impersonation, purchase and investment.

Meta said: "We don't want anyone to fall victim to these criminals, which is why our platforms have systems to block scams, financial services advertisers now have to be Financial Conduct Authority-authorised, and we run consumer awareness campaigns on how to spot fraudulent behaviour.

"People can also report this content in a few simple clicks and we work with the police to support their investigations."

England builds fewer onshore turbines than war-hit Ukraine

Jillian Ambrose
Energy correspondent

Ukraine has completed more onshore wind turbines than England since it was invaded by Russia – despite the UK government's promise to relax restrictions on onshore windfarms.

Only two onshore wind turbines have been installed in England since Russia's invasion in February last year, generating 1 megawatt of electricity at Keele University, Staffordshire.

Ukraine's Tyligulska wind plant, meanwhile, the first to be built in a conflict zone, has begun generating enough clean electricity to power about 200,000 homes just 60 miles from the frontline in the southern region of Mykolaiv, with 19 turbines providing an installed capacity of 114MW.

Ed Miliband, the shadow climate change secretary, said: "This extraordinary revelation is a terrible indictment of Rishi Sunak and his staggering failure to end the onshore wind ban.

"Even governments fighting for their very survival can get on and build the clean energy infrastructure needed to tackle the cost of living crisis, the energy security crisis, and the climate crisis with more urgency than the Tories can muster."

No 10 promised last year to dismantle an effective ban on onshore windfarms in England, which was put in place in 2015 by tightening planning restrictions in the national planning policy framework.

However, the government is yet to make any changes and campaigners believe a rebellion of backbench Tory MPs threatens to pile pressure on ministers to make only modest tweaks to the framework, which would continue to hold back the roll-out of English windfarms.

The ban on onshore wind, which is the cheapest source of electricity, is estimated to have cost UK bill payers £800m over the past winter, when millions were plunged into fuel poverty for the first time due to rising global energy market prices, according to analysts at the Energy and Climate Change Intelligence Unit.

British households face energy bills that are expected to remain above pre-pandemic levels until the end of the decade after Russia's invasion of Ukraine triggered a surge in global energy markets last year.

Although global prices have retreated from record highs they are likely to remain far higher than usual while European countries seek alternative energy sources to help replace Russia's gas exports.

Call for tax on 350 richest families to fund housing

Rupert Neate
Wealth correspondent

A modest wealth tax on the UK's richest 350 families could raise more than £20bn a year – enough to fund the building of 145,000 affordable homes a year – according to research by fairer taxation campaigners.

A 2% tax on assets above £10m held by all members of the Sunday Times rich list could raise as much as £22bn, according to analysis by Tax Justice UK, the Economic Change Unit and the New Economics Foundation.

They said similar wealth taxes in Norway, Spain and Switzerland had helped to reduce inequality and eased the cost of living crisis for some of their poorest citizens. They urged the government to carry out urgent reform of the "fundamental unfairness in the tax system which means that income from work is taxed more than income from investments, rent and inheritances".

Lukasz Krebel, of the New Economics Foundation, said: "This year's rich list shows that at a time when so many of us are struggling with the cost of living, the very wealthiest in society continue to thrive.

"Yet this elite group aren't taxed as much as those of us who earn our living, leaving us with less money to invest in hospitals, schools and parks. We can share the wealth that we all create by increasing taxes on the very rich."

The richest 250 families in the UK are sitting on combined wealth of £748bn, according to the annual rich list published last week, an increase from £704bn the previous year. The list includes the prime minister, Rishi Sunak, and his wife, Akshata Murty, at No 275 out of 350, with £529m, and the 32-year-old Duke of Westminster, with £9.9bn, at No 11.

The campaigners pointed out that less than a quarter of the 100 wealthiest people on the Sunday Times rich list appeared in its annual list celebrating those who paid the most tax. "Because assets are generally taxed at a lower rate than income, many of the wealthiest people in the UK are likely to be paying a relatively low tax rate," they said.

"However, it should be noted that some on the list with 'non-domicile' status or who are fully based offshore for tax purposes may not be paying UK tax on all earnings."

Robert Palmer, of Tax Justice UK, said: "The government must urgently bring forward reforms to fix our broken tax system, bringing in higher taxes on wealth, so that those who earn the most, and own the most, pay their proper share."



▲ *London shops for the well-heeled*
PHOTOGRAPH: ALEX SEGRE/ALAMY

The number of UK billionaires has risen sharply, from 147 in 2020 to 171 this year, with the average billionaire now holding £4bn. There were 15 UK billionaires when the Sunday Times first published its rich list in 1990.

In 2021, the independent Wealth Tax Commission recommended a one-off 1% wealth tax on households with more than £1m in order to generate £260bn, which could cover a year's NHS funding.

A Treasury spokesperson said: "The UK's taxes on wealth are on par with other G7 countries."

Feeling better off? Last week's bad news on economy could seal Tories' electoral defeat



Larry Elliott
Economics editor

There was only ever an outside chance that the Conservatives would win the next general election after the tumultuous period that resulted in Rishi Sunak becoming prime minister last October. And the events of the past week mean the prospect of a fifth Tory victory is now vanishingly small.

Yet the week started so well for the government. On Tuesday, the chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, luxuriated in the praise bestowed on Britain from the International Monetary Fund as it upgraded its growth forecasts for the economy.

Kristalina Georgieva, the IMF's managing director, came bearing three gifts. She said the organisation was no longer predicting a recession for Britain this year; she confirmed that the UK would no longer be the worst-performing G7 country; and she praised Hunt for his handling of the economy. With last Wednesday's figures for the cost of living expected to show a sharp drop in the annual inflation rate, a narrow path to victory for Sunak and Hunt was just about discernible.

Optimism lasted less than 24 hours. At 7am on Wednesday, the Office for National Statistics published figures showing that, while inflation had indeed fallen, it had not dropped by nearly as much as the financial markets had been anticipating. Even worse, core inflation – a cost of living measure that excludes items such as food and fuel – rose.

Previously, the City had thought that interest rates were at or close to a peak. Twelve successive increases have taken the official cost of borrowing from 0.1% to 4.5% and the markets were split between those who thought the Bank of England would leave them unchanged and those who thought one more quarter-point rise would be deemed necessary to bring inflation back to its 2% target.

The mood has now changed. As far as the markets are concerned, the peak in interest rates will not be 4.5% or 4.75% – but 5.5%. In an echo of last autumn's turmoil, the yield (or interest rate) on government bonds rose to reflect the worse-than-expected inflation news. Bond yields affect the cost of servicing mortgages, and lenders responded by raising home-loan rates and pulling some products from the market.

Hunt said he would support any anti-inflationary action the Bank's monetary policy committee might need to take even if it meant a recession. Even so, he will be aware of the dangers – economic and political – of interest rates being kept higher for longer, and he has every reason to be hopping mad with Threadneedle Street.

There are two things every student of economics knows about monetary policy: it takes time to have an effect, and it is a blunt instrument. The art of setting interest rates is to be ahead of the game: to raise rates before inflationary pressure starts to appear and to cut them before the economy weakens by too much. Having been slow to tighten policy, there is now a strong risk that the Bank will be guilty of overkill and be too slow to loosen.

Yes, the Bank can squeeze inflation out of the economy but only by weakening the economy and pushing up unemployment. Britain narrowly avoided recession in the winter just past; it may not be so lucky in the winter to come.

The resilience of the economy over the past six months has been due to a number of factors: oil and gas prices have fallen; some of the excess savings built up during the pandemic have been drawn down; the government has subsidised energy bills; and mortgage rates have dropped. A higher population due to net immigration has also helped to boost growth.

Hunt was hoping that the continuation of this better news on the economy would eat into Labour's opinion polls lead. If, so the thinking went, by the next election inflation was markedly lower and wages were rising faster than prices, then the Conservatives would have a narrative to sell.

> **A path to victory was just discernible. Optimism lasted less than 24 hours**

Sitting governments can play it one of two ways on the economy. In good times they ask the question Ronald Reagan put in his presidential debate with Jimmy Carter in 1980: do you feel better off than you did last time you voted?

When the answer is yes, as it was for the Tories in 1987 and for Labour in 2001, the opposition struggles to get a hearing. But Hunt knows that voters are not going to be better off by the next election than they were in December 2019.

His back-up plan involves focusing on the economy's better performance under his stewardship and asking a different question: given the job I have done since taking over from Kwasi Kwarteng, which party do you think will make you better off over the next five years? This is a weaker pitch but has worked in the past, most notably when John Major won in 1992.

Polling day is still a long way off and only a fool would write off the Tories completely. That said, last week felt decisive. For Sunak and Hunt to grab victory from the jaws of defeat everything has to go right for the economy. Clearly, everything is not going right.



▲ *Rishi Sunak and Jeremy Hunt have to convince voters that their economic strategy will work best*
PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY

Women twice as likely to miss out on workplace pensions, TUC study finds

Graeme Wearden

Women are more than twice as likely as men to miss out on being automatically put into a workplace pension, according to a report.

The TUC said its study suggested more than one in 10 women were in jobs where their employers did not have to enter them into a workplace pension, compared with fewer than one in 20 men.

About 1.4 million women earn less than the £10,000 threshold, which requires their employers to automatically enrol them into a pension, said the TUC. This means they are potentially missing out on an occupational pension. Northern Ireland, the West Midlands and Wales are the areas with the highest proportion of female employees who do not qualify for auto-enrolment, according to the study.

The TUC report was issued to mark Gender Pensions Gap Day – the day female pensioners effectively start getting paid their pension. The Prospect union has calculated that the income gap between men and women in retirement is now 40.5%, more than twice the level of the gender pay gap. Paul Nowak, the TUC's general secretary, said: "We need to fix our pension system so that all women can benefit from a decent income in retirement. But many are missing out on having any sort of occupational pension at all. Unless ministers act now, more women will be consigned to poverty in retirement.

"Ministers should start by scrapping the earnings threshold for auto-enrolment. Workers should have the chance to build up a pension, regardless of how much they earn."

One driver of the gender pensions income gap is the unequal division of caring responsibilities, the TUC says, which means women are much more likely to take time out of work or work part-time to look after children. That makes it harder to build up a workplace pension.



◀ *Women are much more likely to work part-time to look after children, a big driver in the pensions gap*

Other causes include the gender pay gap, and historic differences in national insurance that have left women with lower state pensions on average, the TUC says.

Nowak said: "We need to invest more in childcare and social care, and in the women workers who overwhelmingly work in these professions. That's a key way to close the gender pay gap."

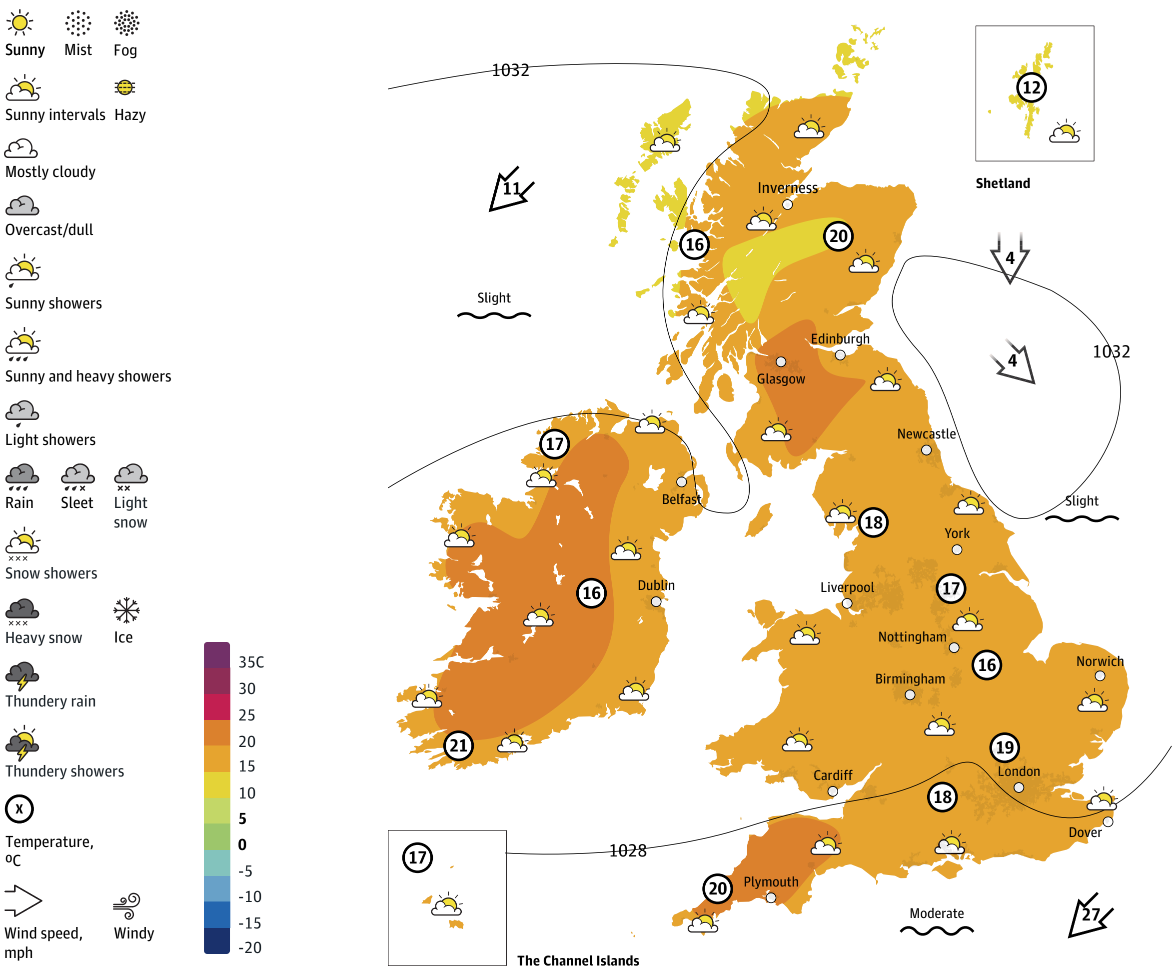
The TUC wants the government to introduce a statutory requirement for ministers to report on the gender pension gap, along with an action plan on how to tackle it.

It also wants pension auto-enrolment to be improved. That could be done by removing the £10,000 earnings threshold so that employers put all workers into a workplace pension, scrapping the lower earnings limit so that contributions are calculated from the first pound of earnings.

The TUC also suggests a set timetable to increase statutory minimum employer contributions from 3%.

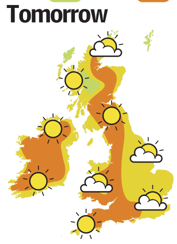
Weather
Monday 29 May 2023

UK and Ireland Noon today

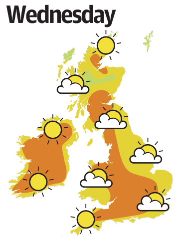


Forecast

Low 6 High 21
Tomorrow



Low 9 High 21
Wednesday



Carbon count

Daily atmospheric CO_2 readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):

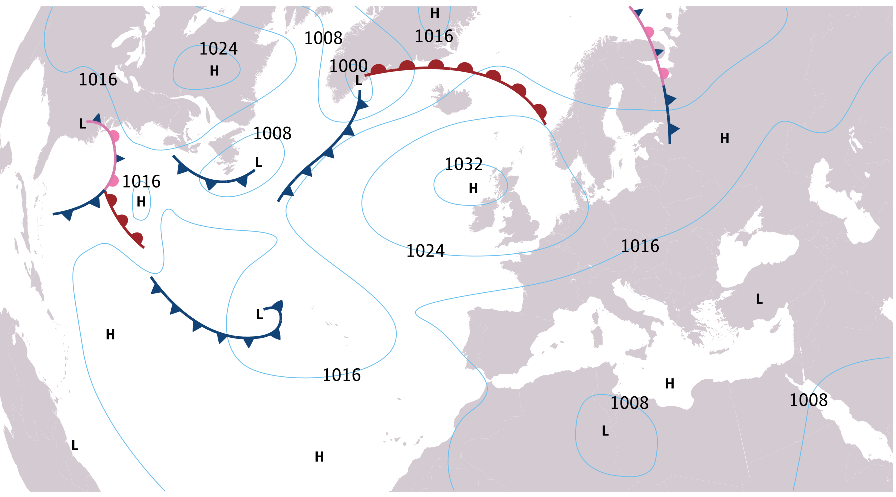
Latest	
27 May 2023	424.57
Weekly average	
21 May 2023	423.91
28 May 2022	421.31
28 May 2013	400.25
Pre-industrial base	*280*
Safe level	*350*

Source: NOAA-ESRL

Around the UK

	Lows and highs	Precipitation	Air pollution
London	8 – 19	0%	Low
Manchester	6 – 19	0%	Low
Edinburgh	7 – 18	0%	Moderate
Belfast	7 – 19	0%	Low
Birmingham	6 – 17	0%	Low
Brighton	9 – 16	0%	Low
Bristol	8 – 18	0%	Low
Cardiff	9 – 18	0%	Low
Newcastle	6 – 17	0%	Low
Penzance	10 – 18	0%	Low

Atlantic front



Cold front

Warm front

Occluded front

Trough

High tides

Source: © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Times are local UK times

Aberdeen	**0932**	3.3m	**2228**	3.3m
Avonmouth	**0230**	9.6m	**1515**	9.6m
Barrow	**0734**	7.1m	**2012**	7.0m
Belfast	**0659**	3.0m	**1954**	2.7m
Cobh	**0106**	3.2m	**1338**	3.2m
Cromer	**0249**	3.7m	**1502**	4.0m
Dover	**0718**	5.2m	**1939**	5.4m
Dublin	**0800**	3.3m	**2041**	3.2m
Galway	**0047**	3.8m	**1354**	3.8m
Greenock	**0745**	2.8m	**2119**	2.7m
Harwich	**0732**	3.2m	**1955**	3.2m
Holyhead	**0624**	4.4m	**1918**	4.3m
Hull	**0213**	5.4m	**1421**	5.6m
Leith	**1045**	4.3m	**2318**	4.3m
Liverpool	**0710**	7.3m	**1949**	7.2m
London Bridge	**0931**	5.6m	**2202**	5.5m
Lossiemouth	**0734**	3.1m	**2031**	3.1m
Milford Haven	**0156**	5.2m	**1441**	5.1m
Newquay	**0055**	5.2m	**1339**	5.1m
North Shields	**--**	--	**1139**	4.0m
Oban	**0141**	3.0m	**1504**	2.9m
Penzance	**0031**	4.3m	**1316**	4.1m
Plymouth	**0049**	4.3m	**1359**	4.2m
Portsmouth	**0723**	3.6m	**2017**	3.9m
Southport	**0618**	7.0m	**1857**	6.9m
Stornoway	**0312**	3.6m	**1601**	3.5m
Weymouth	**0122**	0.6m	**1412**	0.5m
Whitby	**0001**	4.2m	**1213**	4.4m
Wick	**0716**	2.6m	**2013**	2.6m
Workington	**0733**	6.3m	**2021**	6.3m

Sun & Moon



Sun rises	0451
Sun sets	2104
Moon rises	1420
Moon sets	0244
Full Moon	4 June

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather** ©2023

Lighting up

Belfast	2146 to 0458
Birm'ham	2116 to 0453
Brighton	2101 to 0454
Bristol	2114 to 0502
Carlisle	2134 to 0443
Cork	2140 to 0523
Dublin	2139 to 0505
Glasgow	2147 to 0443
Harlech	2127 to 0500
Inverness	2157 to 0430
London	2104 to 0450
M'chester	2123 to 0450
Newcastle	2130 to 0438
Norwich	2105 to 0439
Penzance	2119 to 0519

Weatherwatch



Late spring, early summer marks the beginning of noctilucent cloud season in the northern hemisphere. The name derives from Latin, meaning "night shine". These cloud formations can be seen in summer months shining with an electric blue colour against the darkening western sky about 30 minutes after sunset.

The origin of the clouds remains mysterious. They are the highest known clouds in Earth's atmosphere, existing at an altitude of about 80km (50 miles), which is virtually the edge of space. There appear to be no records of noctilucent clouds before 1885. Some have suggested they form when water freezes around pollutants released since the industrial revolution. Others posit it may be due to higher levels of the greenhouse gas methane, which promotes the production of water vapour in the upper atmosphere.
Stuart Clark *@DrStuClark*

Around the world

Algiers	23	Lisbon	22
Ams'dam	16	Madrid	23
Athens	25	Malaga	27
Auckland	20	Melb'rne	16
B Aires	13	Mexico C	25
Bangkok	33	Miami	31
Barcelona	22	Milan	27
Basra	45	Mombasa	29
Beijing	31	Moscow	22
Berlin	21	Mumbai	35
Bermuda	25	N Orleans	32
Brussels	18	Nairobi	22
Budapest	26	New Delhi	30
C'hagen	17	New York	25
Cairo	31	Oslo	19
Cape Town	18	Paris	24
Chicago	27	Perth	23
Corfu	26	Prague	22
Dakar	30	Reykjavik	11
Dhaka	36	Rio de J	25
Dublin	15	Rome	25
Florence	28	Shanghai	33
Gibraltar	24	Singapore	32
H Kong	33	Stockh'm	16
Harare	23	Strasb'g	27
Helsinki	16	Sydney	20
Istanbul	22	Tel Aviv	25
Jo'burg	21	Tenerife	26
K Lumpur	34	Tokyo	22
K'mandu	29	Toronto	25
Kabul	22	Vancouv'r	19
Kingston	32	Vienna	24
Kolkata	37	Warsaw	23
L Angeles	20	Wash'ton	23
Lagos	31	Well'ton	18
Lima	24	Zurich	24

Sport



Tennis

Kostyuk calls out crowd for booing handshake snub

Page 32 →

Rugby union

McCall's delight tempered by fears over London Irish

Page 31 →



▲ *Sergio García wanted to play at the Ryder Cup in Rome despite his decision to leave the DP Tour and join the rebel LIV Series*
CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP PHOTO

Snippy Sergio

Attempt to play the victim in Ryder row is a sad late chapter in García's fine career

Ewan Murray



There once was a swashbuckling young Spaniard named Sergio. When Señor García burst on to the golf scene more than two decades ago, there was excitement about a player who was carefree on the course and had a twinkle in his eye off it. The expectation was that García would win a lot more than the solitary major that has come his way - the 2017 Masters - but a combined 27 victories between the DP World and PGA Tours still make the 43-year-old one of the finest players of his generation.

We are, however, entitled to ask why life apparently turned so sour for García. Going by the guide books, his 2022 switch to LIV Golf should have afforded him professional harmony. The rebel tour has been handed fresh impetus by the success of Brooks Koepka at the US PGA Championship.

Much like Newcastle United's rise with Saudi Arabian backing, this is of course precisely how sportswashing works; ignore the organ grinders, bask in the achievement. Yet LIV, which is so desperately in need of traction, will inevitably focus on Koepka's glory at Oak Hill.

García, meanwhile, is as crotchety as ever. Last week, when asked if he had spoken to Europe's Ryder Cup captain, Luke Donald, García played his latest victim card. "I talked to him two or three weeks ago," García said. "Obviously I had to make some decisions when it comes down to the DP World Tour and I wanted to see where I stood in regards to the Ryder Cup.

"I wanted him to be sincere and tell me the truth and he pretty much told me that I had no chance. Obviously that made my decision a little bit easier. It was sad because I felt like not only because of my history but the way I've been playing, that I probably could have a chance, but it didn't sound like it, so that's what it is."

The DP World Tour confirmed in early May that García had resigned his membership. By total coincidence, a sporting arbitration panel had determined weeks earlier that the tour was correct to punish García and others for playing in LIV events last year, therefore breaching membership rules. García was among those hit with a £100,000 fine, which he has failed to pay.

But … big, bad Luke. Which represents a slight change, given at the Masters it was the media García took aim at for supposedly exaggerating the LIV-associated schism in his sport. In October, García publicly stated he was staying away from the Ryder Cup for the good of his teammates. It has become hard to keep up.

"It sounded like my chance was slim to none," García said of his Ryder Cup prospects. Donald's recollection of the conversation between former European teammates is understood to be different from García's.

What followed was a needless swipe at Rory McIlroy and Europe's chances of reclaiming the trophy, in Rome climaxing on 1 October, plus the strange notion that García and Jon Rahm should have been allowed to continue a partnership formed in 2021 at Whistling Straits.

"I think we were all thinking and hoping that they [the DP World Tour] would be smart about it and still have options open, because at the end of the day, I'm still European," García said. "I'm Spanish and I want the European team to win and do the best they can and have the best chance at winning the Ryder Cup.

"I was excited about the possibility of playing with Jon again and I know that Jon was also excited about that possibility, too. Unfortunately it doesn't look like it's going to happen, at least for now.

"But it's what it is, and you have to move on. I can't just be sitting here crying that I'm not going to play the Ryder Cup. I hope that Rory recovers because I think the team is going to need him to be 120% if they want to have a chance of winning. Hopefully they'll all get there with the best chance possible and see what we can do."

McIlroy has indeed been out of sorts but it is May. He will be ably assisted by players such as Rahm, Viktor Hovland, Matt Fitzpatrick, Tyrrell Hatton and Shane Lowry. The US have a miserable Ryder Cup record playing away from home. For all García and Rahm combined well in Wisconsin, it was an otherwise disastrous week for the Europeans.

It is tricky to see how García would have been selected for the Ryder Cup other than on sentimental grounds

García has played in five majors since that point, missing the cut in three and posting a best result of tied 23rd. It is tricky to see how he would have been selected for the Ryder Cup other than on sentimental grounds. That is before García's dissatisfaction with all things DP World Tour and that the feeling is mutual (there are 100,000 reasons for that) is considered. Relationships have completely broken down.

García's theme is in keeping with some - but not all - LIV golfers, who seem desperate to portray themselves as put-upon in golf's civil war. Take the Saudi dollars, hit out at the establishment.

In 2014, García claimed he was "too tired" to participate in the DP World Tour's final series. Five years later, he had a meltdown in a bunker during a tournament in Saudi Arabia. Life moved on then, just as it did a decade ago when he made an infamous remark about Tiger Woods at a gala dinner.

García made a business decision to join LIV. For the good of his reputation, he would be better off focusing on what lies ahead than taking swipes at those he purposely left behind.

Football results

Other results

FIFA UNDER-20 WORLD CUP

Group A *(played on Friday)* New Zealand 0 Argentina 5; Uzbekitan 2 Guatemala 0
Group B *(played on Friday)* Ecuador 9 Fiji 0; Slovakia 0 USA 2
Group C Colombia 1 Senegal 1; Japan 1 Israel 2
Group D Brazil 2 Ngeria 0; Dominican Republic 0 Italy 3
Group E Iraq 0 England 0; Tunisia 0 Uruguay 1
Group F Honduras 1 France 3; South Korea 0 Gambia 0

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manchester City **C**	38	28	5	5	94	33	+61	**89**
Arsenal	38	26	6	6	88	43	+45	**84**
Manchester Utd	38	23	6	9	58	43	+15	**75**
Newcastle	38	19	14	5	68	33	+35	**71**
Liverpool	38	19	10	9	75	47	+28	**67**
Brighton	38	18	8	12	72	53	+19	**62**
Aston Villa	38	18	7	13	51	46	+5	**61**
Tottenham	38	18	6	14	70	63	+7	**60**
Brentford	38	15	14	9	58	46	+12	**59**
Fulham	38	15	7	16	55	53	+2	**52**
Crystal Palace	38	11	12	15	40	49	-9	**45**
Chelsea	38	11	11	16	38	47	-9	**44**
Wolves	38	11	8	19	31	58	-27	**41**
West Ham	38	11	7	20	42	55	-13	**40**
Bournemouth	38	11	6	21	37	71	-34	**39**
Nottingham Forest	38	9	11	18	38	68	-30	**38**
Everton	38	8	12	18	34	57	-23	**36**
Leicester **R**	38	9	7	22	51	68	-17	**34**
Leeds **R**	38	7	10	21	48	78	-30	**31**
Southampton **R**	38	6	7	25	36	73	-37	**25**

Arsenal (3) **5** Xhaka 11 14, Saka 27, Jesus 58, Kiwior 78 — **Wolves** (0) **0** — 60,095

Aston Villa (2) **2** Douglas Luiz 8, Watkins 26 — **Brghton** (1) **1** Undav 38

Brentford (0) **1** Pinnock 85 — **Manchester City** (0) **0** — 17,120

Chelsea (1) **1** Trippier 27og — **Newcastle** (1) **1** Gordon 9 — 40,130

Crystal Palace (0) **1** Hughes 66 — **Nottingham Forest** (1) **1** Awoniyi 31 — 25,198

Everton (0) **1** Doucouré 57 — **Bournemouth** (0) **0**

Leeds (0) **1** Harrison 67 — **Tottenham** (1) **4** Kane 2 69, Porro 47, Lucas Moura 90

Leicester (1) **2** Barnes 34, Faes 62 — **West Ham** (0) **1** Fornals 79

Manchester Utd (1) **2** Sancho 39, Fernandes 55 — **Fulham** (1) **1** Tete 19 — 73,465

Southampton (2) **4** Ward-Prowse 19, Sulemana 28 47, A Armstrong 64 — **Liverpool** (2) **4** Jota 10 73, Alexander-Arnold 72, Salah 73 — 31,129

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFFS
Final

Coventry (0) **1** Hamer 66 — **Luton** (1) **1** Clark 23 — 85,711
(aet; Luton win 6-5 on pens)

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO PLAYOFFS
Final

Carlisle (0) **1** Patrick 84 — **Stockport County** (1) **1** Mellish 34og — 34,004
(aet; Carlisle win 5-4 on pens)

BARCLAYS WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Chelsea **C**	22	19	1	2	66	15	+51	**58**
Manchester Utd	22	18	2	2	56	12	+44	**56**
Arsenal	22	15	2	5	49	16	+33	**47**
Manchestr City	22	15	2	5	50	25	+25	**47**
Aston Villa	22	11	4	7	47	37	+10	**37**
Everton	22	9	3	10	29	36	-7	**30**
Liverpool	22	6	5	11	24	39	-15	**23**
West Ham	22	6	3	13	23	44	-21	**21**
Tottenham	22	5	3	14	31	47	-16	**18**
Leicester	22	5	1	16	15	48	-33	**16**
Brighton	22	4	4	14	26	63	-37	**16**
Reading **R**	22	3	2	17	23	57	-34	**11**

Arsenal (0) **0** — **Aston Villa** (1) **2** Daly 45, Lehmann 49

Brighton (0) **0** — **Leicester** (0) **1** Baker 73 — 3,073

Liverpool (0) **0** — **Manchester Utd** (0) **1** García 72

Manchester City (0) **0** Shaw 51 69, Hemp 60 — **Everton** (0) **0** Hope 79, Maier 90 — 3,828

Reading (0) **0** — **Chelsea** (2) **3** Kerr 18 88, Reiten 42

West Ham (2) **2** Snerle 38, Graham 44og — **Tottenham** (1) **2** England 20 48

CINCH SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Celtic **C**	38	32	3	3	114	34	+80	**99**
Rangers	38	29	5	4	93	37	+56	**92**
Aberdeen	38	18	3	17	56	60	-4	**57**
Hearts	38	15	9	14	63	57	+6	**54**
Hibernian	38	15	7	16	57	59	-2	**52**
St Mirren	38	12	10	16	43	61	-18	**46**
Motherwell	38	14	8	16	53	51	+2	**50**
Livingston	38	13	7	18	36	60	-24	**46**
St Johnstone	38	12	7	19	41	59	-18	**43**
Kilmarnock	38	11	7	20	37	62	-25	**40**
Ross County	38	9	7	22	37	60	-23	**34**
Dundee Utd **R**	38	8	7	23	40	70	-30	**31**

Celtic (2) **5** Furuhashi 27 32, Starfelt 78, Oh 82 90 — **Aberdeen** (0) **0**

Hearts (1) **1** Oda 8 — **Hibernian** (1) **1** Nisbet 31

Kilmarnock (1) **3** Lyons 36, Armstrong 49pen, Vassell 78 — **Ross County** (0) **1** Dhanda 63pen — 8,301

Motherwell (1) **3** Van Veen 2, Spittal 69, Johnston 82 — **Dundee Utd** (1) **2** McGrath 31pen, Fletcher 49 — 5,971

St Johnstone (1) **2** Wright 17, Kane 68pen — **Livingston** (0) **0** — 4,362

St Mirren (0) **0** — **Rangers** (1) **3** Sakala 26 48, Colak 77 — 7,490

CINCH SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP PLAYOFFS
Semi-final: Second leg

Ayr (0) **0** — **Partick** (2) **5** McMillan 7, Tiffoney 27 54, Lawless 63, Holt 88
(agg 0-8)

WOMEN'S SCOTTISH CUP
Final Celtic 2 Rangers 0

AIRTRICITY IRISH PREMIER DIVISION
Sligo 1 Derry City 0; **Friday** Bohemians 0 Shelbourne 0; Cork City 1 Shamrock Rovers 0; Droghead Utd 3 UCD 1; St Patrick's 2 Dundalk 1

JUPILER LEAGUE
Club Brugge 1 Genk 3; Royal Antwerp 1 Union St-Gilloise 1; Standard Liège 0 Cercle Brugge 4; Westerlo 1 Gent 3. **Leading standings: 1** Royal Antwerp P39 Pts 46; **2** Union St-Gilloise 39-46; **3** Genk 39-45

LIGUE 1
Angers 2 Troyes 1; Clermont 2 Lorient 0; Lens 3 Ajaccio 0; Lille 2 Nantes 1; Lyon 3 Reims 0; Marseille 1 Brest 2; Montpellier 2 Nice 3; Rennes 2 Monaco 0; Strasbourg 1 Paris St-Germain 1; Toulouse 1 Auxerre 1

BUNDESLIGA

(top 10)	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Bayern Munich **C**	34	21	8	5	92	38	+54	**71**
Borussia Dortmund	34	22	5	7	83	44	+39	**71**
RB Leipzig	34	20	6	8	64	41	+23	**66**
Union Berlin	34	18	8	8	51	38	+13	**62**
Freiburg	34	17	8	9	51	44	+7	**59**
Bayer Leverkusen	34	14	8	12	57	49	+8	**50**
Eintracht Frankfurt	34	13	11	10	58	52	+6	**50**
Wolfsburg	34	13	10	11	57	48	+9	**49**
Mainz	34	12	10	12	54	55	-1	**46**
Borussia M'gladbach	34	11	10	13	52	55	-3	**43**

Bochum 3 Bayer Leverkusen 0; Borussia Dortmund 2 Mainz 2; Borussia Mönchengladbach 2 Augsburg 0; Eintracht Frankfurt 2 Freiburg 1; Köln 1 Bayern Munich 2; RB Leipzig 4 Schalke 2; Union Berlin 1 Werder Bremen 0; VfB Stuttgart 1 Hoffenheim 1; Wolfsburg 1 Hertha Berlin 2

SERIE A

(top 10)	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Napoli **C**	37	27	6	4	75	28	47	**87**
Lazio	37	21	8	8	58	30	28	**71**
Internazionale	37	22	3	12	70	42	+28	**69**
Milan	37	19	10	8	61	42	+19	**67**
Atalanta	37	18	7	12	61	46	+15	**61**
Roma	37	17	9	11	48	37	+11	**60**
Juventus	37	21	6	10	55	33	+22	**59**
Torino	37	14	11	12	42	40	+2	**53**
Fiorentina	37	14	11	12	50	42	+8	**53**
Monza	37	14	10	13	46	47	-1	**52**

Bologna 2 Napoli 2; Fiorentina 2 Roma 1; Internazionale 3 Atalanta 2; Juventus 0 Milan 1; Lazio 3 Cremonese 2; Monza 0 Lecce 1; Salernitana 3 Udinese 2; Spezia 0 Torino 4; Verona 1 Empoli 1. **Friday** Sampdoria 2 Sassuolo 2

EREDIVISIE
AZ Alkmaar 1 PSV Eindhoven 2; Cambuur 4 RKC Waalwijk 0; Feyenoord 0 Vitesse Arnhem 1; Fortuna Sittard 1 NEC Nijmegen 1; Groningen 0 Sparta Rotterdam 5; Heerenveen 2 Go Ahead Eagles 0; Twente 3 Ajax 1; Utrecht 3 Emmen 2; Volendam 3 Excelsior 2. **Leading standings: 1** Feyenoord (C) P34 Pts82; **2** PSV Eindhoven 34-75; **3** Ajax 34-69

PRIMEIRA LIGA
Benfica 3 Santa Clara 0; Braga 3 Paços Ferreira 0; Chaves 1 Boavista 4; Estoril 3 Marítimo 1; Portimonense 0 Aruca 2; Porto 3 Guimarães 0; Vicente 1 Casa Pia 0. **Friday** Rio Ave 2 Famalicão 2; Vizela 1 Sporting 2. **Leading standings: 1** Benfica (C) P34 Pts87; **2** Porto 34-85; **3** Braga 34-78

LA LIGA

(top 10)	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Barcelona **C**	37	28	4	5	69	18	+51	**88**
Real Madrid	37	24	5	8	74	35	+39	**77**
Atletico Madrid	37	23	7	7	68	31	+37	**76**
Real Sociedad	37	20	8	9	49	34	+15	**68**
Villarreal	37	19	6	12	57	38	+19	**63**
Real Betis	37	17	8	12	45	40	+5	**59**
Osasuna	37	14	8	15	35	41	-6	**50**
Athletic Bilbao	37	14	8	15	46	42	+4	**50**
Girona	37	13	10	14	57	53	+4	**49**
Rayo Vallecano	37	13	10	14	45	50	-5	**49**

Almería 0 Real Valladolid 0; Athletic Bilbao 0 Elche 1; Atlético Madrid 2 Real Sociedad 1; Barcelona 3 Mallorca 0; Cádiz 1 Celta Vigo 0; Getafe 2 Osasuna 1; Girona 1 Real Betis 2; Rayo Vallecano 2 Villarreal 1; Sevilla 1 Real Madrid 2; Valencia 2 Espanyol 2

Rugby union

INTERNATIONAL MATCH
Barbarians 48 World XV 42

GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP
Final Saracens 35 Sale 25

UNITED CHAMPIONSHIP
Final Stormers 14 Munster 19

WOMEN'S ALLIANZ PREMIER 15S
Exeter 82 Wasps 7; Harlequins 81 Darlington MP 10; Loughborugh P Worcester P; Sale 14 Gloucester-Hartpury 48; Saracens 48 Bristol 38

Rugby league

BETRED SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
Warrington	13	10	0	3	329	199	+130	**20**
Wigan	13	9	0	4	295	173	+122	**18**
Catalans Dragons	13	9	0	4	326	210	+116	**18**
Hull K R	13	8	0	5	294	188	+106	**16**
Leigh	13	8	0	5	278	209	+69	**16**
Salford	13	8	0	5	271	243	+28	**16**
St Helens	12	7	0	5	231	169	+62	**14**
Leeds	13	6	0	7	253	244	+9	**12**
Huddersfield	12	5	0	7	191	190	+1	**10**
Hull	13	5	0	8	200	357	-157	**10**
Castleford	13	2	0	11	135	322	-187	**4**
Wakefield	13	0	0	13	83	382	-299	**0**

Salford 29 Hull FC 22. **Friday** Catalans Dragons 36 Wakefield 6; Huddersfield 20 Castleford 4; Leeds 12 St Helens 13; Leigh 30 Warrington 12

BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP
Featherstone 46 York 16; Halifax 12 Batley 20; Keighley 18 Bradford 42; London Broncos 14 Toulouse 10; Newcastle32 Sheffield 38; Whitehaven 16 Barrow 32; Widnes 38 Swinton 6

BETFRED LEAGUE ONE
Cornwall 10 North Wales 42; Dewsbury 52 London Skolars 6; Hunslet 38 Rochdale 18; Midlands 16 Oldham 50

BETFRED WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE
Group One Huddersfield 20 Wigan 30; Leeds 18 St Helens 38; York 44 Warrington 4
Group Two Barrow L Bradford L; Salford 10 Leigh 58

Cricket

VITALITY T20 BLAST
North Group

Old Trafford Lancashire 208-4 (DJ Mitchell 85no). Nottinghamshire 186-5 (C Munro 60, TJ Moores 41no, M Montgomery 41). Lancashire win by 22 runs.

Headingley Durham 217-3 (AZ Lees 90, OG Robinson 64no; MA Jones 43). Yorkshire 189-7 (BA Raine 3-27). Durham win by 28 runs.

South Group

Tauton Glamorgan 153 (EJ Byrom 42; RE van der Merwe 3-24). Somerset 154-6 (T Banton 54; DA Douthwaite 3-26). Somerset win by four wicket.

The Oval Surrey 148 (RS Bopara 3-18). Sussex 149-5 (TP Alsop 51no; MGK Burgess 48). Sussex win by five wickets.

TOUR MATCH (final day of three)

Chelmsford Essex 343 (RJ Das 132, GH Dockrell 74, MR Adair 62; T Mayes 4-68) and 307-8 dec (MR Adair 85, WEL Buttleman 65). Ireland XI 419 (PR Stirling 107, LJ Tucker 97, AR McBrine 67; JA Richards 5-96) and 232-0 (PJ Moor 118no, JA McCollum 100no). Ireland win by 10 wickets.

CHARLOTTE EDWARDS CUP
Pool Stage

Headingley Diamonds 172-7 (L Dobson 47); Sunrisers 137 (G Scrivens 50; KA Levick 5-19). Diamonds win by 35 runs.

Taunton Stars 126-6 (AN Davidson-Richards 43). Storm 121 (SN Luff 43no). Stars win by five runs.

Old Trafford Sunrisers 116-8. Thunder 119-3 (L Heap 46). Thunder win by seven wickets.

Cycling

GIRO D'ITALIA
Stage 21 (Rome 126km) **1** M Cavendish (GB) Astana Qazaqstan 2hr 48min 26sec; **2** A Kirsch (Ned) Trek-Segafredo; **3** F Fiorelli (It) Green Project-Bardiani CSF-Faizane; **4** A Dainese (It) DSM; **5** A Krieger (Ger) Alpecin-Deceuninck all s/t.
General classification: 1 P Roglic (Svn) Jumbo-Visma 85hr 29min 02sec; **2** G Thomas (GB) Ineos Grenadiers +0:14; **3** J Almeida (Por) Team Emirates +1:15; **4** D Caruso (It) Bahrain Victorious +4:40; **5** T Pinot (Fr) Groupama-FDJ +5:43.

Golf

KLM DUTCH OPEN (Cromvoirt, Netherlands)
Leading final scores: 275 P Larrazábal (Sp) 66 73 67 69. **277** A Otaegui (Sp) 67 71 69 70. **278** R Højgaard (Den) 69 71 67 71; D Germishuys (SA) 70 71 68 69.

WOMEN'S BELGIAN OPEN (Wanze)
Leading final scores: 205 P Schmidt (Ger) 71 68 66. **207** C Noja (Ger) 69 70 68; M Hernández (Sp) 69 67 71. **208** O Cowan (Ger) 69 71 68. **209** C Manzalini (It) 71 67 71.

Tennis

FRENCH OPEN (Roland Garros, Paris)
Men: First round: H HURKACZ (Pol, 13) bt D Goffin (Bel) 6-3 5-7 6-4 2-6 6-4; **K KHACHANOV** (Rus, 11) bt C Lestienne (Fr) 3-6 1-6 6-2 6-1 6-3; **T Griekspoor** (Neth) bt P Martínez (Sp) 6-4 2-6 0-6 7-5 6-3; **S Ofner** (Aut) bt M Cressy (Fr) 6-4 7-6 (8-6) 6-2; **R Albot** (Mol) bt R Kypson (US) 6-3 6-2 4-6 6-1; **T Kokkinakis** (Aus) bt D EVANS (GB, 20) 6-4 6-4 6-4; **M Fucsovics** (Hun) bt H Grenier (Fr) 6-3 5-7 6-1 6-3; **S TSITSIPAS** (Gre, 5) bt J Vesely (Cz) 7-5 6-3 4-6 7-6 (9-7); **J Kubler** (Aus) bt F Díaz Acosta (Arg) 1-6 6-3 6-4 3-6 6-1; **N Borges** (Por) bt J Isner (US) 6-4 5-7 7-6 (7-3) 4-6 7-6 (11-9); **S KORDA** (US, 24) bt M McDonlad (US) 6-4 7-5 6-4; **M Amaldi** (It) bt D Galán (Col) 2-6 6-3 6-0 6-2; **C Moutet** (Fr) bt A Cazaux (Fr) 6-1 6-3 4-6 6-4; **A RUBLEV** (Rus, 7) L Bere (Ser) 6-1 3-6 6-3 6-4; **L Sonego** (It) bt B SHELTON (US, 30) 6-4 3-6 6-3 6-3; **A Shevchenko** (Rus) bt O Otte (Ger) 7-5 4-6 6-1 7-6 (7-2); **U Humbert** (Fr) bt A Mannarino (Fr) 6-3 6-3 6-1; **J Pouille** (Fr) bt J Rodionov (Aut) 6-2 6-4 6-3.

Women: First round: M Frech (Pol) bt ZHANG S (Chn, 29) 6-1 6-1; **N Podoroska** (Arg) bt J Ponchet (Fr) 6-0 6-2; **A SABALENKA** (Blr, 2) bt M Kostyuk (Ukr) 6-3 6-2; S Sanders (Aus) bt N Parrizas Díaz (Sp) 4-6 6-2 6-4; **I Shymanovich** (Rus) bt P Udvardy (Hun) 6-7 (6-8) 6-3 6-1; **K Rakhimova** (Rus) bt S Bejlek (Cz) 6-0 6-3; **E MERTENS** (Bel, 28) bt V Kuzmova (Svk) 6-1 6-4; **L Fernandez** (Can) bt M LINETTE (Pol, 21) 6-3 1-6 6-3; **M Kuchova** (Cz) bt M SAKKARI (Gre, 8) 7-6 (7-5) 7-5; **L Jeanjean** (Fr) bt K Birrell (Aus) 6-4 6-7 (6-8) 6-3; **K Giorgi** (It) bt A Cornet (Fr) 6-3 6-4; **ZHENG Q** (Chn, 19) bt T Zidansek (Svn) 6-3 6-1; **C Tauson** (Den) bt A Sasnovich (Rus) 6-2 6-0; **A POTAPOVA** (Rus, 24) bt T Townsend (US) 6-1 6-2; **S Errani** (It) bt J Tecichmann (Swi) 3-6 6-4 6-2; **M Sherif** (Egy) bt M Brengle (US) 6-3 6-1; **I BEGU** (Rom, 27) bt A Bondar (Hun) 6-4 6-2; **J PEGULA** (US, 3) bt D Collins (US) 6-4 6-2; **A SAMSONOVA** (Rus, 15) bt K Volynets (US) 6-0 6-1

Greg Wood's racing tips

Windsor 1.30 As If By Chance **2.00** Denruth Diamond **2.35** Fierce **3.10** Whenthedealinsdone **3.45** Andaleep **4.20** Damascus Steel **4.51** Mr Boson
Huntingdon 1.35 Ratoute Yutty **2.05** Chess Player **2.40** Iolaos Du Mou **3.15** Hardy Boy **3.50** Kingfast **4.25** Miss Antipova **4.55** Highland Frolic
Redcar 1.45 Danzart **2.15** Rooska **2.50** Hala Amaraaty **3.25** Tyke **4.00** Pillar Of Hope (nb) **4.36** Wootton'sun **5.10** Bearwith **5.40** Iron Sheriff (nap)
Cartmel 2.20 Titanium Moon **2.55** I Spy A Diva **3.30** Stylish Moment **4.05** Sao **4.40** Marshalled **5.15** Walkin Out **5.45** Wearelongterm
Leicester 2.30 Bobby Kennedy **3.05** Sonemos **3.40** Swift Hawk **4.15** Cabinet Of Clowns **4.48** Safari Dream **5.25** Rock N Roll Pinkie **5.55** Angel Of Peace

The week ahead



Alexia Putellas will lead Barcelona in the Women's Champions League final

Today

Football
Sky Bet League One playoffs
Final Barnsley v Sheffield Wed (3pm) *Sky Sports Football*
Cricket
Vitality T20 Blast
North Group Derbys v Northants, Derby (3pm); Durham v Notts, Riverside (6.30pm) *Sky Sports Cricket*; Warks v Lancs, Edgbaston (2.30pm); Worcs v Leics, New Road (2.30pm)
South Group Middlesex v Gloucestershire, Northwood (2.30pm)
Charlotte Edwards Cup
Pool Stage Blaze v Vipers, Derby (11am); Sparks v Thunder, New Road (10.30am)
Tennis
French Open
Roland Garros (to 11 Jun) *Eurosport 1, Eurosport 2*
Racing
Cartmel, Huntingdon, Windsor

Tomorrow

Football
Fifa U20 World Cup
Last 16 USA v New Zealand (6.30pm); Uzbekistan v Israel (10pm)
Uefa U17 Championship
Semi-finals Poland v Germany (3.30pm); Spain v France (7pm)
Cricket
Vitality T20 Blast
North Group Nottinghamshire v Yorkshire, Trent Bridge (6.30pm)
South Group Essex v Gloucestershire, Chelmsford (6pm); Kent v Somerset, Canterbury (6.30pm)
Racing
Brighton, Lingfield, Nottingham

Wednesday

Football
Uefa Europa League
Final Sevilla v Roma (8pm) *BT Sport 1*
Fifa U20 World Cup
Last 16 Argentina v Nigeria (10pm); Brazil v TBC (6.30pm); Colombia v Slovakia (6.30pm); England v Italy (10pm)
Cricket
Vitality T20 Blast
North Group Northants v Warks, Northampton (6.30pm) *Sky Sports Cricket*
South Group Hants v Surrey, Ageas Bowl (7pm); Middx v Glam, Northwood (4.30pm)
Charlotte Edwards Cup
Pool Stage Sunrisers v Storm, Northampton (2.30pm); Vipers v Thunder, Ageas Bowl (3pm)
Racing
Beverley, Cartmel, Hamilton, Newton Abbot, Warwick

Thursday

Football
Cinch Scottish Premiership playoffs
Final: First leg Partick v Ross County (8pm) *Sky Sports Football*
Fifa U20 World Cup
Last 16 Ecuador v TBC (10pm); TBC v Uruguay (6.30pm)
Cricket
Only Test (first day of four)
England v Ireland, Lord's (11am) *Sky Sport's Cricket*
Vitality T20 Blast
North Group Leics v Derbys, Grace Road (6.30pm); Yorks v Lancs, Headingley (7pm) *Sky Sports Cricket*
South Group
Sussex v Essex, Hove (7pm)
Golf
Memorial Tournament
Dublin, Ohio (to Sun) *Sky Sports Golf*
Porsche European Open
Winsen, Germany (to Sun) *Sky Sports Golf*
Women's Mizuho Americas Open
Jersey City, New Jersey (to Sun) *Sky Sports Golf*
Racing
Carlisle, Lingfield, Market Rasen, Ripon, Yarmouth

Friday

Rugby league
Betfred Championship
Newcastle v Bradford (7.45pm)
Cricket (6.30pm unless stated)
First one-day international
Sri Lanka v Afghanistan, Hambantota (5.30am)
Vitality T20 Blast
North Group Derbys v Warks, Derby (7pm); Durham v Lancs, Riverside; Northants v Leics; Notts v Worcs
South Group Essex v Hants, Chelmsford (7pm); Glam v Kent, Sophia Garden; Gloucs v Surrey, Bristol (6.45pm) *Sky Sports Cricket*; Somerset v Middx, Taunton
Charlotte Edwards Cup
Pool Stage
Diamonds v Blaze, Riverside (2.30pm)
Darts
US Masters
New York (to Sat)
Racing
Carlisle, Catterick, Chepstow, Doncaster, Epsom, Stratford

Saturday

Football
Emirates FA Cup
Final Manchester City v Manchester Utd (3pm) *BBC One, ITV1*
Scottish Cup
Final Celtic v Inverness CT (5.30pm) *BBC One Scotland*
Uefa Women's Champions League
Final Barcelona v Wolfsburg (3pm) *DAZN*
Rugby union
Women's Allianz Premier 15s
Darlington MP v Sale (2pm); Gloucester-Hartpury v Exeter (2pm); Loughborough v Saracens (2pm); Wasps v Bristol (2pm); Worcester v Harlequins (2pm)
Rugby league
Betfred Super League
Leeds v Castleford (6pm) *Sky Sports Arena*; Salford v Hull KR (1.30pm) *Sky Sports Arena*; Wigan v Catalans Dragons (3.45pm) *Sky Sports Arena*
Betfred Championship
Toulouse v Halifax (5pm)
Betfred League One
London Skolars v North Wales
Cricket
Vitality T20 Blast
North Group Warks v Notts, Edgbaston (7pm)
South Group Hants v Sussex, Rose Bowl (7pm) *Sky Sports Cricket*
Charlotte Edwards Cup
Pool Stage Sparks v Vipers, Edgbaston (2.30pm)
Formula One
Spanish Grand Prix qualifying
Barcelona *Sky Sports F1*
Racing
Doncaster, Epsom, Hexham, Lingfield, Musselburgh, Stratford, Worcester

Sunday

Football
Cinch Scottish Premiership playoffs
Final: Second leg Ross County v Partick (4.30pm) *Sky Sports Football*
Rugby league (3pm unless stated)
Betfred Super League
Hull v Warrington (4.30pm) *Sky Sports Arena*; St Helens v Huddersfield (2.15pm) *Sky Sports Arena*; Wakefield v Leigh (midday) *Sky Sports Arena*
Betfred Championship
Batley v York; Featherstone v Barrow; Keighley v Swinton; Sheffield v Whitehaven; Widnes v London Broncos
Betfred League One
Midlands v Doncaster; Oldham v Hunslet; Workington v Cornwall
Cricket
Second one-day international
Sri Lanka v Afghanistan, Hambantota (5.30am)
First one-day international
United Arab Emirates v West Indies, Sharjah (1.30pm)
Vitality T20 Blast
North Group Durham v Leics, Riverside (2.30pm); Notts v Lancs, Trent Bridge (2.30pm); Worcs v Northants, New Road (2.30pm); Yorks v Derbys (11.30am)
South Group Gloucs v Middx, Bristol (2.30pm); Kent v Surrey, Canterbury (2.30pm); Somerset v Essex, Taunton (2.30pm); Sussex v Glam, Hove (2.30pm)
Charlotte Edwards Cup
Pool Stage Blaze v Sunrisers, Trent Bridge (11am); Diamonds v Vipers, Headingley (3.30pm); Storm v Sparks, Bristol (10.30am); Thunder v Stars, Blackpool (2.30pm)
Formula One
Spanish Grand Prix
Barcelona *Sky Sports F1*
Cycling
Criterium du Dauphiné
France (to 11 Jun)
Darts
PDC European Tour
Sindelfingen, Germany
Racing
Fakenham, Nottingham

The main event

England v Ireland

11am, Thursday, Sky Sports Cricket

England, led by Ben Stokes, warm up for the summer's Ashes series with a four-day Test against Ireland at Lord's



Formula One *Monaco Grand Prix*

Verstappen thrives in rain and increases grip on title

Red Bull driver is already 39 points clear in world championship after six races

Giles Richards
Monte Carlo

It seems little is going to prove a distraction to Max Verstappen on what appears to be an increasingly inexorable march to his third Formula One championship. Certainly the inconvenience of heavy rain at the Monaco Grand Prix only brought out the best in the world champion as he dominated once more on the streets of Monte Carlo to win a race saved from the usual tiresome procession by welcome late drama when the heavens opened.

After what had been a gripping qualifying on Saturday, a fearsome, thrilling, sudden-death shootout that was impossible to ignore, the race for a large part of the afternoon had every indication of delivering the usual line-astern anticlimax on the streets of the principality. F1's long-acclaimed jewel in the crown once more revealed to be a dusty, flawed, shabby piece of paste, changing hands in the back room of a pub. When the rain came, however, the jeopardy, the drama was once more all too real and the fearsome challenge riveting.

In both scenarios Verstappen was majestic. On his way to a commanding win over Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso, who was second, and Alpine's Esteban Ocon who was third, Verstappen had owned the first 50 laps. Untroubled once he held his lead into turn one from the off, out front it was a procession in which the top 10 cars did not change position until the first pit stops.

However, when the rain began hitting the track at lap 51 and grew steadily in intensity, it altered the face of the race. Conditions were changing by the minute but Aston Martin made the wrong choice in sending Alonso into the pits for dry rather than intermediate tyres during moments of high intensity, as Verstappen grazed the wall at Portiers as he had to ease his way to the pits to take the wet rubber. He made it and Alonso had to follow him in again to do the same, the Spaniard's chance of an early undercut on the inters and the win gone with it.

Around them a slew of cars pirouetted and slid around the streets, Carlos Sainz, George Russell, Lance Stroll, Kevin Magnussen and Yuki Tsunoda among them, indicative of how tough the conditions were.

With Lewis Hamilton and Russell in their newly upgraded Mercedes finishing in fourth and fifth, they made the best of the changing conditions, certainly in terms of the team making the right call on going into the pits for the wet tyres, but Hamilton emphasised how treacherous it had been, especially in the opening moments as the track transitioned from dry to wet. "It was very, very bad," he said.

"There's really no word to describe how difficult it was, for my side, I couldn't get the temperature into the Intermediate tyres, so I was just tiptoeing. I felt it was very, very twitchy when my tyres weren't working, so it was like I was on ice."

He had its measure when the rubber was up to temperature, however, as did Verstappen and Alonso and Ocon once they were on the right tyres, their skills highlighted by some of the carnage careering around in their wake.

Verstappen summed up the conundrum he had faced. "When you're that far in the lead, you don't want to push too hard but also you don't want to lose too much time," he said. "So it's quite difficult in that scenario and I clipped the walls a few times. It was super difficult out there, but that's Monaco."

Yet for all the late drama, it was once more the Dutchman who had an iron grip on the race and with it the championship. This was the circuit least expected to suit the Red Bull, with its strengths in the medium and high-speed corners and on the straights. That they still held a comprehensive advantage on the high-downforce, high-ride height of Monaco is ominous indeed for the rest of the season. They remain unbeaten in 2023 and again demonstrated that they have the potential to take a clean sweep this year.

Just as he delicately sashayed his car through the streets on the slick surface with a disarming insouciance, the numbers too were dancing for Verstappen. This was his 39th career win and with his teammate Sergio Pérez finishing in 16th after he crashed during qualifying and had to start from the back of the grid, victory has extended Verstappen's lead in the world championship over Pérez to 39 points after six meetings. He is now Red Bull's most successful driver, surpassing the 38 wins Sebastian Vettel scored for the team but while clearly pleased it was impossible not to sense he had much greater figures in mind.

"You have a good car for a while, you can break these kinds of numbers," he said. "It's great, I never thought I would be in this position in my career, winning this race is better than I could ever have imagined."

The lead is a chasm similar to the one he opened last year when he wrapped up the title with ease with four races to go. Wet or dry, street circuit or high-speed autodrome, it is clear he is going to be fearsomely hard to beat this season.



◀ *Max Verstappen drives through the rain for his fourth win of 2023*
RYAN PIERSE/GETTY IMAGES

Results

1	**Max Verstappen** Neth Red Bull	**25pts** *1hr 48mins 51.980 sec*
2	**Fernando Alonso** Sp Aston Martin	**18pts** *+27.921sec*
3	**Esteban Ocon** Fr Alpine	**15pts** *+36.990sec*
4	**Lewis Hamilton** GB* Mercedes	**13pts** *+39.062sec*
5	**George Russell** GB Mercedes	**10pts** *+56.284sec*
6	**Charles Leclerc** Mon Ferrari	**8pts** *+1:01.890sec*
7	**Pierre Gasly** Fr Alpine	**6pts** *+1:02.362sec*
8	**Carlos Sainz** Sp Ferrari	**4pts** *+1:03.391sec*
9	**Lando Norris** GB McLaren	**2pts** *+1 lap*
10	**Oscar Piastri** Aus McLaren	**1pts** *+1 lap*

Also finished
11 **Valtteri Bottas** Fin Alfa Romeo +1 lap
12 **Nyck de Vries** Neth AlphaTauri +1 lap
13 **Zhou Guanyu** Chn Alfa Romeo +1 lap
14 **Alexander Albon** Thia Williams +1lap
15 **Yuki Tsunoda** Jpn AlphaTauri +2 laps
16 **Sergio Pérez** Mex Red Bull ++2 laps
17 **Nico Hülkenberg** Ger Haas +2 laps
18 **Logan Sargeant** USA Williams +2 laps

Not classified
19 **Kevin Magnussen** Den Haas 70 laps
20 **Lance Stroll** Can Aston Martin 53 laps

Championship standings
Drivers: 1 **Max Verstappen 144pts**; 2 **Sergio Pérez 105**; 3 **Fernando Alonso 93**; 4 **Lewis Hamilton 69**; 5 **George Russell 50**; 6 **Carlos Sainz 48**; 7 **Charles Leclerc 42**; 8 **Lance Stroll 27**; 9 **Esteban Ocon 21**; 10 **Pierre Gasly 14**
Constructors: 1 **Red Bull 249pts**; 2 **Aston Martin 120**; 3 **Mercedes 119**; 4 **Ferrari 90**; 5 **Alpine 35**; 6 **McLaren 17**; 7 **Haas 8**; 8 **Alfa Romeo 6**; 9 **AlphaTauri 2**; 10 **Williams 1**

Athletics

Johnson-Thompson 'can see a path back' after claiming second

Sean Ingle
Götzis

Katarina Johnson-Thompson believes she has rediscovered her mojo after an impressive second-placed finish at the prestigious Hypomeeting in Götzis – and insists she is ready to "truly attack" again following her return to form.

The 30-year-old has looked a shadow of her best since sustaining a career-threatening achilles rupture in 2020. But her performance here earned her 6,556 points – her best tally since winning the world title in 2019 – and has finally convinced her that she is on the road back.

"I don't think the score truly reflects where I am at but everything is going in the right direction and I can see a path back," she said. "Last year I was just asleep competitively. But now I feel super-motivated again because I know I can do better."

What was particularly heartening for Johnson-Thompson was that her score came despite hurting her foot and ankle after crashing into a barrier in her first event, the 100m hurdles, and also misjudging the pace in the 800m at the end of day two. She also believes she has crossed a major psychological barrier by clearing 1.89m in the high jump on day one – her best since 2019.

"It was the most important part of the weekend for me," she said, "as I've always had the question in the back of my head that, if my high jump is not the same, will I be able to contend? But to hit those heights, and have a good attempt at 1.92m, makes me feel like I am really back now."

Johnson-Thompson started day two in third place with 3,930 points, but a solid long jump of 6.32m added 949 points and pushed her into second, while a 44.14m javelin throw – the second best of her career – ticked another 747 to her total while she confirmed her second-place finish with a 2min 12.40sec time for 800m.



Katarina Johnson-Thompson managed her best points total since 2019 in Götzis

"This is only my second competition of the year and a lot of events I was doing for the first time. I was only dipping my toe in to see where I was at. But now I feel like I have blown the cobwebs off and I can truly attack."

However, Johnson-Thompson was also given a reminder of what it will take to return to the pinnacle as the 22-year-old American Anna Hall produced an astonishing performance to score 6,988 points to win by 332 points. That tally made her the fifth best heptathlete in history.

▼ *Israel Folau attracted boos at Twickenham but also scored a fine try*
IZZY NINNS/PPAUK/SHUTTERSTOCK



Jones relishes return but jeers put Folau's talents in the shade

Barbarians	**48**
World XV	**42**

Gerard Meagher
Twickenham

Boos again on Eddie Jones's return to Twickenham but this time directed only at Israel Folau. The former Australia wing's selection for the World XV raised eyebrows given the controversy his anti-gay social media posts caused in 2019 and he was regularly jeered by the Twickenham crowd. He scored a try, showcasing his unquestionable talent, but suffice to say he was persona non grata in south-west London.

Jones, meanwhile, escaped unscathed on his first trip back to Twickenham. He played down the significance but it was almost six months to the day after his final England match ended in resounding boos and the axe soon followed. He never liked this fixture but after this you sense his opinion has changed. There can be no doubt that he enjoyed his triumphant return. Taking charge of the Barbarians, he flashed up on the big screen just after Seta Tamanivalu's try had sealed an entertaining victory against Steve Hansen's World XV. Jones was beaming, grinning from ear to ear.

Jones didn't like this fixture because ordinarily it pits an England XV against the Barbarians and on two of the four occasions he coached in it his side were thumped by the invitational side. He used to argue those defeats should not be counted in losing streaks and after this try-fest went as far as to say it is dishonest to market it as an "England" fixture. Four years ago, unable to pick anyone he wanted to take with him to the World Cup, he didn't even coach the England side.

"I can speak as a former England coach," Jones said. "I don't think [they] should play the Barbarians, unless it's a younger England team.

"At this time you can never pick the England team, so it shouldn't be called England, it should be called England President's XV or something like that. Playing against the Barbarians is a great idea but to try and sell it as England is not honest. It's not honest."

That he agreed to coach the Barbarians in this fixture while he was employed by the Rugby Football Union suggests he was only too happy that there was no England XV involved. All the more so, when his side edged out that of Hansen, scoring eight of the 14 tries in a match that provided plenty of entertainment but little intensity. "It's just important to win," he said. Did it bring back memories? "Just good ones mate. Seven years here. It's the longest I've ever coached a team and I loved every minute of coaching here. I loved every minute of coming back."

There was a festival atmosphere – Hansen had maintained it never mattered who won, even if Jones disagreed – and if there was some remarkable skill on show at times, you wonder if this particular fixture will be repeated. The allure of the Barbarians is whether a team thrown together for a week can upset a team who haven't been. Pit two teams together like that and as much as Charles Piutau's counterattacking will always be a delight to watch, or that Semi Radradra thrills every time he gets into stride, it did not quite hit the mark.

Hansen had defended picking Folau in the buildup and claimed the RFU's decision to fly a version of the Pride flag was a positive outcome. There were several other rainbow flags on show and vociferous boos whenever the Tonga international touched the ball. He also remains a remarkable rugby player and scored a well-taken try in the right-hand corner as the World XV romped into a 28-19 lead in the first half and he also produced the most outrageous offload after setting off on a dazzling run from deep.

"We don't necessarily have to agree with each other on our opinions but you are entitled to have one," Hansen said. "You can't be punished for the rest of your life for having an opinion that most of us disagree with."

At one point it appeared that the World XV might run riot but after seizing back the lead just before half-time the Barbarians did not relinquish it. Alun Wyn Jones played the full 80 minutes on his final international appearance, though he is set to represent the Barbarians on Wednesday against Swansea, and he even had a couple of rank conversion attempts, which suggests the end of his career, country and club, is nigh.

"I'll just enjoy this moment with these players and our families and go from there," Jones said. "There is a lot of life left in me, whether that's in rugby, I don't know yet."

Barbarians
Anscombe; Radwan, Tamanivalu, Kerevi (Johnson 20), Li; Cooper (Cruden 59); Maunder (Hougaard 50); Waller (West 52), Dolly (Thacker ht), Pieretto (Sadie 51), Jones (capt), Lewies (Simmons 47), Wainwright (Vailanu 61), Yamamoto, Luatua
Tries Radwan, Li, Tamanivalu 2, Lewies, Anscombe, Hougaard, Johnson
Con Anscombe 4

World XV
Piutau; Folau, Radradra, Laumape (Patchell 39), Nkosi; Hastings (Rasaku 58), Phipps (Hall ht); Jones (Dell 54), Brown (Dee 23), Kebble (Street 54), Ratuniyarawa (Cannone 49), Hockings, Negri, Lamaro (capt), Mata (Murphy 54)
Tries Negri, Nkosi 2, Ratuniyarawa, Folau, Hall
Con Hastings 4, Patchell 2

Referee Tom Foley (Eng) **Attendance** 32,597

Saracens' joy tempered by crisis at London Irish

On-field product is good and England's players shone with the World Cup looming, but the sport has clear problems

Robert Kitson
Twickenham

Even in Saracens' moment of triumph on Saturday their director of rugby, Mark McCall, admitted to mixed feelings. A first Premiership title since the salary cap saga that sent his club spiralling into the Championship ranked among his most satisfying achievements but this week could also bring a gloomy postscript if his old team London Irish become the third financially stricken club to be suspended from the league.

McCall is the smartest of operators and one whose determination to drive Sarries back to the top of the domestic game never left him, even in their darkest hours. He is also among those, however, keenly aware of the reputational damage done to the league when established names such as Wasps, Worcester and now, potentially, Irish disappear in a puff of debt-heavy smoke. "It's hard to be jubilant when these things are happening," the Ulsterman said. "I love London Irish and it would be awful if that happens."

The sun-bathed final on Saturday duly delivered a perfect snapshot of the Jekyll and Hyde character of the current English club game. On the pitch the action was constantly absorbing and, from Saracens' perspective, ultimately memorable. Off it the smallest final crowd (except for Covid-affected seasons) since 2007 reflected the wider perception issues (and flawed ticket pricing) that endure. "It's a shame because it feels like the on-field product is good," McCall said. "Hopefully we can get it right off the field."

By the time of the Rugby World Cup this autumn it must also be hoped greater consistency exists around television match official interventions, with Saracens' match-clinching try by Ivan van Zyl awarded despite a lack of conclusive video evidence, and the initial opinion of the referee, Luke Pearce, that the ball had been held up by Sale's Joe Carpenter. While not entirely the cause of Sale's gallant 35-25 defeat – two costly second-half lineout steals were also pivotal – it was another oval-shaped case of the tail wagging the dog.



▲ *Mark McCall (left) celebrates Saracens' victory with Jamie George*

The next few months will be critical, furthermore, from the perspective of England's head coach, Steve Borthwick, who must have been quietly encouraged by the contest on Saturday. Yes, the international game is a level up but Owen Farrell and Tom Curry were both outstanding with Max Malins, Manu Tuilagi, Maro Itoje and Elliot Daly not far behind. With the young Saracens hooker Theo Dan and Sale's loose head Bevan Rodd also impressing, no one can say England lack talented, big-occasion players.

The conundrum is how best to blend everything together and Saturday offered an obvious stylistic answer. Saracens have moved away from their conservative ways and, with Farrell at the tiller, have adopted a more flexible, bolder approach. England do not have the sheer forward power to shake South Africa and France but an amalgam of the strengths of Sarries, Sale and Leicester should make them genuinely competitive.

A more positive outlook is visibly suiting Farrell: in terms of slipping teammates into holes with smartly delayed passes and pressurising on opposing sides by making the correct decision at the right time, this has been the best season of the 31-year-old's club career. "He's playing unbelievably well but he's always been a huge big match player," his long-time colleague Alex Goode said.

Both Farrell and McCall, though, were quick to hail departing senior players such as Jackson Wray and Duncan Taylor for forging the resilient environment that has now brought Saracens six domestic titles in 12 years, either side of their *annus horribilis* in 2019-20 which could have finished the entire club.

"I don't think people talk about this enough," Wray said afterwards. "It was the biggest fine in sporting history in a game where you lose money every year. And we have got through it. That says a lot more about the owners, to be honest. They said: 'We made a mistake and we will stay and put it right.' Together we have done it."

McCall felt likewise – "It's really satisfying, probably because of what happened three years ago" – and now believes his recast side can kick on again. "This is not the team that won the double in 2019 … this feels like the start of something." Participating in a 10-team Premiership next season will nevertheless be a bittersweet experience for all involved.

Kostyuk angry after boos greet Sabalenka snub

Ukrainian heckled for refusing to shake hands with her Belarusian opponent

Tumaini Carayol
Roland Garros

The Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk believes the French Open crowd should be embarrassed after they booed her off court at Roland Garros when she refused to shake hands with Aryna Sabalenka following the Belarusian's 6-3, 6-2 win in the first round of the French Open.

Since Russia began its invasion of Ukraine last year, which has been supported by Belarus, Ukrainian players have opted not to shake hands with Russian and Belarusian opponents after their various meetings. As Kostyuk walked directly to shake the umpire's hand, however, a significant portion of the crowd on Court Philippe Chatrier booed.


Aryna Sabalenka won the match in straight sets

"What happened today, I have to say I didn't expect it," Kostyuk said. "I did not, but I have no reaction to it. People should be honestly embarrassed, but this is not my call. I don't know. I feel fine."

Sabalenka initially believed the crowd's ire was directed at her and made a sarcastic bow. But as Kostyuk departed, she was booed until she left the court. A confused Sabalenka was then urged by her team to acknowledge the crowd properly.

Kostyuk said: "I want to see people react to it in 10 years when the war is over. I think they will not feel really nice about what they did."

Sabalenka said she did not have an issue with the absence of a handshake. "I couldn't understand what's going on," the world No 2 said. "Because we all know Ukrainian girls will not shake hands with us, so it's kind of not a surprise for us, but probably the public was surprised. They saw it as disrespect to me as a player, so that's why it was booing her."

Sabalenka's press conference included an exchange with a Ukrainian journalist, who implored her to be more specific with her opinions on the war. Sabalenka has received criticism for arguing she believes sport should remain out of politics, and also because she spent November and December doing some pre-season training in Ufa, Russia. In 2021 she also attended Alexander Lukashenko's new year address after months of mass protests and violent state suppression in Belarus. Her links to the Belarusian dictator came under further scrutiny when he referenced her results in an address to the nation about the war this year.



▲ *Marta Kostyuk walks off court after refusing to shake hands*
CHRISTOPHE PETIT-TESSON/EPA

"I said it many times: nobody in this world, Russian athletes or Belarusian athletes, support the war," Sabalenka said. "Nobody. How can we support the war? Nobody, normal people will never support it. Why do we have to go loud and say that things? This is like one plus one, it's two. Of course we don't support war. If it could affect anyhow the war, if it could like stop it, we would do it. But unfortunately, it's not in our hands."

> ***'What happened today, I have to say I didn't expect it. People should be honestly embarrassed'***
>
> **Marta Kostyuk**
> *Ukrainian world No 39*

Shortly afterwards, Kostyuk held court in a 35-minute press conference. Before the match, Sabalenka said even if Kostyuk hates her, she has no similar feelings towards the Ukrainian. Kostyuk responded by saying she does not hate Sabalenka but has no respect for her due to her refusal to speak out about the war properly. She contrasted Sabalenka's reticence to speak out with the Russian Daria Kasatkina, the world No 9, who has not returned to Russia since conveying her despair about the war.

"There are people who never left Russia, and they say: 'Oh, Russia should destroy US; you know, they're the biggest enemies of ours,' but they've never even been there.

"Someone like Aryna, who is travelling the world, she has a big platform of people who support her. And just to reject her responsibility of having an opinion on the most important things in the world, I cannot respect it."

Overnight, Kostyuk's match had been preceded by Russia's biggest drone attack of the war against her home city, Kyiv. Kostyuk, who is now based in Monte Carlo since leaving Ukraine, says she normally does not check her phone at night. This time, however, she woke up at 5am and read everything on the morning of her match against the best player in the world this year.

"I try to put my emotions aside any time I go out on court," she said. "I think I'm better than before, and I don't think it affects me as much on a daily basis, but yeah, I don't know. There is not much to say really. It's just part of my life."

Evans suffers 'shocking' early exit to Kokkinakis

Tumaini Carayol
Roland Garros

Dan Evans said he will have ample soul-searching to do after his hopes of a positive French Open ended with a dispiriting 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 defeat against Thanasi Kokkinakis in the first round.

"I said the other day there's some soul-searching," said Evans, the 20th seed, referencing his recent criticism of British tennis. "There will be plenty of that tonight. Got to get on and try and get my game in a good spot. It's shocking right now how I played today. It's disappointing. I thought [I was] in a good spot coming in, but I felt like that the whole time. It's not good enough."

Evans's clay-court season had started positively, with the 33-year-old beating top opposition in Karen Khachanov and Francisco Cerundolo to reach an ATP 500 semi-final in Barcelona. Since then, however, he has reverted to his poor form throughout this season, losing his past four matches.

Evans said he feels great on the practice court, but he is struggling badly in competition. During the match, a questionable foot fault from the centre line was enough to disrupt his form and confidence.

"You play well in practice, and then you get on the court, and that's a bit worrying. There's not much else I can really do. I'm working really well in practice. I'm doing the stuff I need to do, and then comes to match day, and I've been, again, apart from one tournament, pretty average this year.

"I'm not sure what else to try. Believe me, I've tried quite a lot this year, and it's getting the same answer a lot."

Since breaking into the top 30 just before the Covid hiatus in 2020, Evans has remained within and around the top 30 for over three years, a strong achievement for a player who had previously spent his career outside of the top 100.

However, instead of gradually pushing forward towards the top 20, his form has stagnated. Evans is 8-15 so far in 2023 and he has lost his first match in nine of his 12 tournaments this year. He is in the high 50s in the live ATP race for 2023, with significant points to defend in the summer.

"It's just frustrating that I've been there so long and then not to be able to get inside [the top 20] becomes frustrating," he said. "Not winning the slightly bigger matches. At the minute it's more frustration than knowing what I can do to get there. I'm trying to do what I think is right to get there, but it's obviously not paying off. It's just hard. It's a hard sport. That's the bottom line."

Meanwhile, Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic claimed the first major scalp on the opening day as she toppled Maria Sakkari, the Greek eighth seed, 7-6(5), 7-5.

Muchova, a former top-20 player who reached the 2021 Australian Open semi-finals, is primarily unseeded because of her struggles with various injuries and she was widely considered a nightmare first-round draw. The result is nearly identical to their second-round match last year, which Muchova won in two tiebreak sets.


▲ *Dan Evans was beaten 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 by Thanasi Kokkinakis in Paris*

Stefanos Tsitsipas, the men's fifth seed, moved into the second round after four tight sets, beating Jiri Vesely of the Czech Republic 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(7). Tsitsipas was trailing by 3-6 in the tiebreak, a fifth set looming, before launching a strong comeback.

Afterwards, the Greek said he has worked hard on taking inspiration from Carlos Alcaraz's positive demeanour. Tsitsipas said: "Last year during preseason I was, like: 'I want to apply that more into my game.' Players focus more on technical stuff and stuff that don't focus on these aspects of the game.

"I kind of admire him for who he is. I just want to be more – I have that capacity of being that person. I truly believe that.

"That is also the reason that I'm just much more joyful and happy when playing this sport, due to him."

Cavendish storms to Rome win as Roglic savours overall victory

Jeremy Whittle

Mark Cavendish brought the curtain down on his final Giro d'Italia with a spectacular stage win in Rome, as Primoz Roglic sealed his first overall victory in the race.

Cavendish, who announced last week that he will retire at the end of this season, easily outsprinted his rivals to take his 17th stage win in the Giro.

"I'm super-happy," Cavendish, of the Astana Qazaqstan team, said. "It was a long, hard slog to get here to the end of the Giro. We've come close a couple of times before. My boys did incredible, and my friends did incredible. I just had some great friends today, long-time friends. I'm pretty emotional."

The stage is now set for Cavendish to attempt to become the all-time record holder for Tour de France stage wins in July.

Among the old friends lending a hand on the Roman cobbles was Geraint Thomas. But the Welshman is unlikely to ever again visit the remote corner of north-eastern Italy, where on Saturday afternoon, Roglic wrenched the *maglia rosa* of Giro leadership from the weary shoulders of the Ineos Grenadiers leader.

Roglic's devastating performance, in the mountain time trial to Monte Lussari, was the equal of Tadej Pogacar's in the penultimate stage of the 2020 Tour de France on La Planche des Belles Filles, when he overhauled his compatriot to claim his first yellow jersey.

This time, though, it was Roglic, the Jumbo-Visma team leader, who dished out the pain with Thomas in the role of the shell-shocked and distraught victim.

This was a monumental finish to an otherwise unremarkable Giro, in keeping with the epic battle between Laurent Fignon and Greg LeMond in the 1989 Tour de France and the Roglic-Pogacar duel in 2020's pandemic Tour. It may not have been the closest finish in Grand Tour, or Giro history, but it was certainly one of the most dramatic.



▼ *Mark Cavendish celebrates as he wins the final stage in Rome*
ALBERTO PIZZOLI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"He smashed me," Thomas, said of his 40-second defeat by Roglic on the horrendous climb to the summit finish. What made the 33-year-old Roglic's performance all the more remarkable was that he suffered a potentially catastrophic mechanical problem midway through the climb, instantly reviving memories of past traumas, that could have cost him everything.

As the Slovenian shipped his chain, the Welshman's hopes were sinking. After a painfully slow bike and helmet change at the foot of the climb, the reality was that Thomas never again found his rhythm.

The 26sec lead, built up over three tortuous weeks of racing, evaporated in the thin mountain air, leaving Thomas drained and defeated as he slumped beyond the finish line.

"I don't want to sound like I'm making excuses," he said afterwards, "but I just didn't feel like I had that real 'grunt'."

In fairness to Thomas, his own performance was of the highest calibre and secured second place on what was a brutal stage. But it still wasn't enough. Yet Thomas was as generous as ever in defeat.

"Primoz deserves that," the 37-year-old said. "I guess it's nice to lose by that much, rather than a second or two, because that would be worse, I think."

Roglic, buoyed up the climb by thousands of Slovenian fans, was exultant. "When I knew the crowds that would be up here, on my turf, I had goosebumps," he said. "To be a person that people come to support is special. I'm extremely proud to be that person. I'll definitely remember this day for the rest of my life."

Thomas has finished on the podium in four of the last five Grand Tours he had finished and, despite this loss, is a model of consistency.

The Ineos Grenadiers sports director, Oli Cookson, said: "'G' has been in so many diverse environments and events, from the Olympics to the Tours, he's had incredible success in his career and some near-misses as well, and this is one of those. He's shown time and time again that he comes back for more. He's an icon for the sport and a gentleman and does it with humility and grit and determination."

There was compassion for the popular Thomas but equally a sense of redemption for Roglic, after the devastating defeat of three years ago. "It's unfair to compare victories, [to] say which is more or less. But this says who I am," Roglic said. "I always have hope and fight on. That's the story of my Giro."



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Welcome to Luton
Reborn club ready to greet Premier elite after playoff drama *News, Page 3* →

Sky Bet League Two playoffs *Final*

Carlisle win promotion thanks to Holy goalie

Carlisle 1
Patrick 84

Stockport 1
Mellish 34og

aet; Carlisle win 5-4 on pens

Simon Mail
Wembley

Carlisle returned to League One after edging past Stockport on penalties in a battle of endurance to clinch their first promotion for 17 years. Paul Simpson was in charge back in 2006 when they won League Two and his homecoming return has been a monumental triumph after guiding them to victory in the playoff final.

Simpson, who helped Carlisle avoid relegation after returning for his second spell in February 2022, finally tasted success at Wembley after five defeats at the stadium. "I knew if we ever got there again my turn would come," Simpson said. "The players have been absolutely magnificent. We wanted to make it a good season but I'm not sure many people gave us a chance."

Reflecting on his third promotion with Carlisle - he also led them out of the Conference - Simpson said: "This one I think the players have probably overachieved from what was expected. I didn't expect this."

Tomas Holy's penalty save from Ryan Rydel enabled the substitute and Carlisle boyhood fan Taylor Charters to score the winning spot kick, sparking wild jubilation for the Cumbrians after their journey south.

Stockport, after struggling to create an opening, owed a lot to fortune in their breakthrough in the first half with Isaac Olaofe's cross wickedly deflecting off Jon Mellish and looping over Holy.

Carlisle rallied and spurned a chance to equalise before the break, with John-Kymani Gordon not finishing off his rampaging run with a goal after blasting his effort over the bar. Stockport should have doubled their lead in the second half but the defender Akil Wright put his free header wide of the post from Chris Hussey's free-kick.

It was another substitute that made the difference though with Patrick drilling a low shot into the corner of the net, after Fraser Horsfall's attempted clearance from Joel Senior's cross fell perfectly for the forward to convert. The equaliser arrived just moments after Mellish's goal-bound shot appeared to strike Kyle Knoyle's hand on the line.

All of a sudden Stockport were in turmoil and desperately clinging on as Carlisle pushed for a winner in front of their buoyant supporters. With nine minutes of injury time, Simpson urged on his team to use their momentum to find a second goal but the match went the distance.

Stockport appeared the more likely winners during extra time, with Jack Stretton forcing Holy into an exceptional save, to keep out his fierce strike from the edge of the area. Carlisle struck back and only a stunning save from Hinchcliffe kept out Kristian Dennis's near-post header from Owen Moxon's corner to ensure the final was decided on penalties.

Dave Challinor, Stockport's manager, said: "We've had the emotions of a penalty shootout win and loss within the space of a week. But these experiences, we have to use them and learn from them to turn them into a positive."

> ***'We wanted to make it a good season but I'm not sure many people gave us a chance'***
>
> **Paul Simpson**
> *Carlisle manager*

Carlisle
3-5-2
Holy; Whelan, Huntington, Mellish; Senior, Moxon, Guy (Charters 78), McCalmont (Patrick 61), Armer (Dennis 82); Gordon (Gibson 78), Garner (Edmondson 61)
Subs not used
Kelly, Robinson

Stockport
3-5-2
Hinchcliffe; Wright (Collar 69), Horsfall, Hussey; Knoyle, Camps (Byrne 85), Croasdale, Sarcevic (Lemonheigh-Evans 114), Rydel; Olaofe (Stretton 82), Madden (Hippolyte 69)
Subs not used
Collar, Jaros, Lewis

Referee Tom Nield **Attendance** 34,004



▲ *Carlisle players react after Taylor Charters scores the winning penalty*
BRADLEY COLLYER/PA



Premier League

Pinnock seals an unlikely double as City look to treble

Brentford 1
Pinnock 85

Manchester City 0

John Brewin
Gtech Community Stadium

Manchester City, 180 minutes from history, were thankful the final 90 of their Premier League season passed without incident bar the minor blemish of Brentford becoming the only team to do a league double over them.

"I don't have any complaints," said Pep Guardiola. "The solidarity they have, an exceptional team, I have a lot of admiration for Thomas Frank, the vibes that he's getting."

Ethan Pinnock's winning goal was late-arriving - some way to celebrate a new contract - the ball nodded into his path by Bryan Mbuemo after Kevin Schade's cross. It came long after jeopardy had already been removed, Brentford relying on Aston Villa and Tottenham slipping to seize the outside chance of crowning the finest season in the club's modern history with a place in the Europa Conference League.

Dancing in foreign plazas was denied to travelling Bees but perhaps that's for the best. West Ham have reached the final of the competition but with a deleterious effect on Premier League form. A club of lesser resources such as Brentford are likely to have struggled further.

"It's special," said Frank, ninth place, 59 points achieved on the division's second-lowest budget. "No matter what City players are out there, it's top, top players."

Guardiola's selection had been a combination of protectionist and experimental, seven changes from the midweek draw with Brighton. "We have four or five players with niggles," he said. "The guys who didn't play here that normally play were really exhausted yesterday or the day before."

It opened the door for Frank's team; Erling Haaland, on a run of one goal in six matches, was benched. With John Stones, Ilkay Gündogan, Rodri and Bernardo Silva also subs, Kalvin Phillips filled the Rodri role on his second Premier League start for City and failed to exert anything like the same control over midfield. Kevin De Bruyne, Rúben Dias and Jack Grealish stayed in Manchester. "They need top rest and to arrive with the right energy," said their manager.

Instead, City's next generation struggled with their chance to shine against quality Premier League opposition. Phil Foden was joined by two fellow young Greater Mancunians in the rangy Cole Palmer in attack, Rico Lewis slotting into midfield. Foden was labelled as "incredible, top form" by Guardiola but struggled for connectivity. Palmer, guilty of two late misses, had Julián Álvarez and Riyad Mahrez for exalted company in being distanced from midfield.

Seconds before kick-off, City were announced as "Premier League champions" to boos from home fans. The away fans promptly booed the Premier League anthem, 115 pending charges hanging heavy like a dulling wine. Such is 2022-23, a campaign of often brilliant football played with a scarring undertow of legal issues and nastiness that can time-bar the appreciation. For their part, City fans jibed at Ivan Toney's ban and gambling addiction with a chorus of "he should have cashed out".

Far more positively, the home fans sang the praises of the goalkeeper David Raya, expected to leave this summer, priced at £40m by Frank, and praised as "like a holding midfielder" by Guardiola. The Spaniard made a save from Palmer's early left-foot drive but City's unfamiliar team were otherwise grinding the gears.

Following the break, Foden looked determined to play himself into Guardiola's cup final reckoning. Brentford, meanwhile, made frenzied claims for

Ending season on a high note



Ethan Pinnock celebrates after scoring the goal that beat the champions ALEX PANTLING/GETTY IMAGES

what looked like three cases of handball. Frank was full in the face of the fourth official as home fans bayed for VAR, subsequently booked when in truth, none of Phillips, Palmer or Lewis had handled.

The introduction of Shea Charles, 19, a debutant, in place of Nathan Aké added to the youthful Mancunian contingent while Kyle Walker, captain for the day, made himself unpopular with a couple of challenges, one on Rico Henry looking a deliberate push, decidedly risky considering the high cost of suspension or self-harm.

Brentford's proficiency at dead-ball situations – "the best by far, exceptional" according to Guardiola – began to exert pressure. Guardiola, far less active on the sidelines than usual, was reluctant to make any more subs. Haaland will have to end his mini drought at either Wembley or the Ataturk Olympic Stadium.

A late alert rang out when a scampering Foden was slow to rise from the floor but that injury panic soon passed. Within seconds, Pinnock had scored, and after Brentford held off City's late flurry, both teams' fans could begin to celebrate their successes. "It's the braveness I love from my team," said Frank, his admiration shared by an opposite number with destiny calling.

Brentford
3-5-2
Raya; Jørgensen, Pinnock, Mee; Hickey (Dasilva 70), Onyeka (Baptiste 81), Janelt, Damsgaard (Schade 70), Henry; Mbeumo (Ghoddos 89), Wissa (Roerslev 89)
Subs not used
Strakosha, Ajer, Stevens, Trevitt

Manchester City
4-3-3
Ederson; Walker, Laporte, Aké (Charles 63), Gómez; Phillips, Lewis, Foden; Mahrez, Álvarez, Palmer
Subs not used
Ortega, Stones, Gündogan, Haaland, Rodri, Silva, Robertson, Knight

Referee John Brooks **Attendance** 17,120

Xhaka's double helps Arsenal start to heal wounds with crushing win

Arsenal 5
Xhaka 11 14, Saka 27, Jesus 58, Kiwior 78

Wolves 0

Nick Ames
Emirates Stadium

This time nobody could bear to see the back of Granit Xhaka. "We want you to stay," sang the Emirates Stadium crowd as he walked off 15 minutes from time, the serenade lengthy and heartfelt. They knew that would not be possible and, in the near future, the object of their affection will sign for Bayer Leverkusen; a better redemption arc would be hard to find, though, and the contrast with that bitter, acrimonious trudge from the same pitch in October 2019 must surely have run through Xhaka's mind.

The fairytale sign-off had already come. Xhaka had never scored twice in a game for Arsenal but managed that within 14 minutes to his own mixture of delight and amusement. When a loose ball bounced his way in front of goal shortly after the half-hour, the likely outcome seemed too good to be true. It was a glorious chance for Xhaka to leave with an improbable hat-trick but he fluffed the effort and, where such a mishap would once have met jeers, the chuckles were generous. Arsenal's supporters learned to embrace their midfielder in the end, warts and all.

It will not be lost on them that Xhaka's rehabilitation has occurred in tandem with that of their club. Handed a microphone on the pitch afterwards, Mikel Arteta waited for the songs hailing his revolution to quieten and thanked the faithful for their patience. "We know our destination is to bring success, joy and trophies to this club, but in the meantime please enjoy the journey," he told them.



▲ *Granit Xhaka (left) scores his second goal for Arsenal in what is likely to be his last match for the club* NEIL HALL/EPA

Having swallowed the disappointment of failing to sweep all before them this time, they played several of the hits that propelled them to title contention for so long.

Once Xhaka's scoring farewell had been ticked off the obvious remaining cherry was a goal for Bukayo Saka, whose new contract was confirmed on Tuesday. There is no other 21-year-old in the division with such a suite of skills and he showed it by converting the sublime third in a rout, capping a four-man move with a whipped finish beyond José Sá. The game was won by half-time and Arsenal could enjoy themselves thoroughly.

Poker-faced to the last, Arteta would not directly feed the hunger for parting tributes to Xhaka. "Do you know that? It's news to me," he said when the imminent transfer was raised. Somebody should probably show him the valedictory post Xhaka had published on social media earlier in the weekend.

But he recalled how, a year ago, he had told the player: "There's a question mark on you." Back then he urged Xhaka, who lost 4kg between his manager's challenge and the start of pre-season, to deliver more and was rewarded by the best year of his career. "Well deserved, he had an incredible season," he said of the fans' ovation.

The opener came after Xhaka took up the kind of position he has occupied frequently since August, making a late run and planting his head on Gabriel Jesus's cross from the right. The net rippled, via the flailing hand of Sá, and the scorer saluted. It was two almost instantly, a one-two between Saka and Martin Ødegaard not quite coming off but seeing the ball deflect kindly for Xhaka, again lurking with intent, to sidefoot in.

Wolves' appetite to make it a contest evaporated immediately and Saka, who had taken his customary early whack and would depart in discomfort after an hour, capitalised fully. He checked inside Max Kilman before finishing emphatically with his left foot; Thomas Partey, Leandro Trossard and Ødegaard had all been involved in working the ball to his favoured inside-right area.

After half-time Ødegaard impishly ran through the full array of party tricks and Jesus, with a carbon copy of Xhaka's first, powered in a header from Trossard's delivery. Jakub Kiwior was an unlikely candidate to round things off but, after some characteristically slipshod Wolves defending, his first-time shot squirmed through Sá. Arsenal could have added more but this was a fine way to rinse out the taste of a grim previous fortnight.

There was little for Julen Lopetegui, whose future at Wolves is in doubt, to enjoy in watching his disjointed team be swept aside. He pointed out their objective of safety had already been reached but was tight-lipped about his own prospects. "I have a contract, I am always positive," he said. "When we have a problem I want to solve this problem."

Arteta's concerns are different. "I need to get away, I need a few days with my family," he said. "To visualise and feel what is going to be the way and how we're going to get these players to a different level again." Xhaka will not be one of them, but what was for so long a white-knuckle ride ended as a joyful carnival parade.

Arsenal
4-3-3
Ramsdale; Partey, White, Gabriel, Kiwior (Tierney 80); Ødegaard (Smith Rowe 75), Jorginho, Xhaka (Viera 75); Saka (Nelson 60), Jesus, Trossard (Nketiah 80)
Subs not used
Turner, Holding, Bandeira, Walters

Wolves
4-3-3
Sá; Semedo, Collins, Kilman (Gomes 68), Bueno (Aït-Nouri ht); Nunes (Neves ht), Lemina, Gomes (Hodge 85); A Traoré, Jiménez, Hwang (B Traoré 67)
Subs not used
Bentley, Cunha, Dawson, Sarabia

Referee Andre Marriner **Attendance** 60,095

Hodgson proud of Palace after Forest draw

Crystal Palace 1
Hughes 66

Nottingham Forest 1
Awoniyi 31

Roy Hodgson believes an 11th-placed finish for Crystal Palace is an excellent achievement. With a 1-1 draw at home against Nottingham Forest, the south London club finished in their highest position since 2017-18, in a campaign during which the 75-year-old replaced Patrick Vieira in March.

A Will Hughes goal cancelled out an opener for Taiwo Awoniyi but Hodgson, who refused to be drawn on his future, was proud of the club's accomplishment. "An 11th place for Palace, in any season, is always acceptable. At the moment that is definitely where we want to be at least," he said.

"We can always hope we have a better season and some of the seasons beyond that, and hope we get into the top half.

"But I think there's always going to be a gap to teams which spend £200m or more on putting their playing staff together, whose only interest is getting into the Champions League. I hope our fans and the club realise that's a hell of an ask where you can finish higher than 11th or 12th."

Nottingham Forest took the lead in a 60-second spell in which they could have fallen behind. A shot by Eberechi Eze on the hour was blocked by Jordan Ayew, with the goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey turning away a Hughes shot on the rebound.

A long ball out of the Forest half almost immediately by Morgan Gibbs-White found Awoniyi, who got the better of Joachim Andersen in the box and slotted home.

Palace equalised in the 65th minute, albeit with some good fortune. A cross by Michael Olise into the box was flicked on by Hughes past Hennessey – although



▲ *Will Hughes celebrates after scoring Crystal Palace's equaliser*

the ball deflected off the challenging Willy Boly.

While both sides were looking for a winning effort to round off the season, it proved to be a satisfactory – if winless – ending for both sides.

The Forest head coach, Steve Cooper, revealed his appreciation for Hodgson, and also believed the travelling support got a deserved reward. "I said to Roy at the end it was an honour to come up against him. I've only done four years of this first-team lark," Cooper said.

"For him to do as much as he's done and to have the career he's done, I'm full of admiration. He doesn't need any kind words from me, but at the same time it's a privilege to come up against him.

"We wanted to win and I think it was important to give the supporters a result. Our away support has been incredible and we haven't given them enough in terms of results and sometimes performances. It could have been any result today and it would have been the same atmosphere, they've given us that." **PA Media**

Crystal Palace
4-2-3-1
Johnstone; Ward, Andersen, Guéhi, Mitchell; Doucouré (McArthur 68), Hughes (Riedewald 90); Olise (Ahamada 90), Eze, Ayew; Édouard (Mateta 67)
Subs not used
Whitworth, Clyne, Richards, Adaramola, Sambi Lokonga

Nottingham Forest
3-4-2-1
Hennessey; Worrall, Boly (Dennis 72), Niakhaté; Aurier, Yates, Mangala (Kouyaté 72), Lodi (Toffolo ht); Johnson, Gibbs-White (Ayew 89); Awoniyi (Surridge 89)
Subs not used
Shelvey, Lingard, Mighten, Freuler

Referee Thomas Bramall



Gordon opens Newcastle account

Anthony Gordon beats Chelsea's goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga to score his first goal for Newcastle
CHRIS RADBURN/REUTERS

Blues relieved it is all over but Howe's lads bask in their success

Chelsea	**1**
Trippier 27og	
Newcastle	**1**
Gordon 9	

Jacob Steinberg
Stamford Bridge

While the players of Newcastle stood in front of the noisy travelling supporters and celebrated qualifying for the Champions League for the first time in two decades, their counterparts in blue wandered sheepishly around the pitch and wondered what comes next after the season from hell finally came to an end.

The immediate answer was a fond farewell to Frank Lampard after his stint as caretaker with a lively 1-1 draw with Newcastle. In terms of the wider picture, though, Chelsea are in for a long rebuild. They have finished in the bottom half for the first time since 1996 and, while they have convinced Mauricio Pochettino to take over, the reality for Chelsea's owners, Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital, is they will have little to celebrate when they mark the first anniversary of their takeover today.

Ultimately it has been an exhibition in how not to run a football club. A spend of close to £600m on signings has achieved nothing and Boehly, who stayed away from this one, will know the months ahead could be long, painful and costly. A lot of players need moving on, if only to make Pochettino's life easier, and perhaps Clearlake's founders, Behdad Eghbali and José Feliciano, will have a better idea of who should go after turning up to watch yet another wasteful performance from Chelsea in front of goal.

There was something fitting about Chelsea's campaign ending with João Félix and Christian Pulisic missing glaring opportunities in added time. Wastefulness has been the theme.

Kai Havertz is simply not equipped to lead the line for a top side and there was no better illustration of why Chelsea have scored at a rate of a goal a game in the league this season when their dud of a No 9, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, mooched down the touchline a few minutes before this game began and sat behind the bench after once again failing to make the match-day squad.

Afterwards Lampard would talk about a decline in standards, criticise his side's lack of physicality and say the dressing room is too quiet. The message for Pochettino was that this will not be a quick fix; the hope, of course, is that Eghbali and Feliciano understood the need for patience and stability when they saw Eddie Howe being given a hero's reception by Newcastle fans after the final whistle.

Howe has built carefully since joining Newcastle last season. In fact they have probably over-performed. After all not many people expected Newcastle to beat Liverpool to fourth place and, given that the squad remains light in certain areas, they will need to strengthen before tackling the Champions League.

However, while a move for James Maddison is likely following Leicester's relegation, it was interesting to hear Howe talk down his summer budget. "When you're sat in my shoes it's never as big as you want it to be," he said. "Financial fair play will impact on what we do. We're not huge payers of wages. The big clubs will always dwarf us on that. That makes it hard to attract the best players."

Of course there was the possibility that Howe was underplaying his hand. But equally it is easy to see Chelsea being stronger under Pochettino. They still have the bones of a good squad. There are young players who will benefit from Pochettino's coaching - Lewis Hall had another good game at left-back, Noni Madueke was a livewire on the right flank and Conor Gallagher offered thrust from midfield - while established stars such as Raheem Sterling are simply crying out for continuity.

Others will move on. César Azpilicueta, the club's legendary full-back, has seen better days. Mason Mount, absent with injury, is probably going. Mateo Kovacic, introduced as a substitute, is likely to be sold.

Pochettino will have to rework his squad. As for Lampard, the past six weeks have done little for his reputation. Chelsea have become worse since sacking Graham Potter last month and it did not take long for Newcastle to expose their frailties. Their goal, scored in the ninth minute, was a case in point.

There was no pressure on Allan Saint-Maximin as the winger dribbled down the left, no attempt to stop Elliot Anderson's low cross and nobody bothering to track Anthony Gordon's run into the box.

At least Chelsea, who wanted Gordon last summer, responded to the former Everton winger's first goal since joining Newcastle. They were level in the 27th minute. Released by a quick free-kick, Sterling cut inside and saw his low shot turned into his own net by Kieran Trippier.

The rest of the game was knockabout fun. Both teams had chances. Newcastle's teenage debutant, Lewis Miley, almost grabbed the headlines when he hit the bar. But a point felt fair. Newcastle were dreaming of trips to the Bernabéu and San Siro. Chelsea were thinking about life under Pochettino.

Chelsea	Newcastle
4-3-3	**4-3-3**
Arrizabalaga; Azpilicueta, Chalobah (W Fofana ht), Silva, Hall; Loftus-Cheek (Chukwuemeka 60), Fernández, Gallagher (Kovacic 70); Madueke (Pulisic 88), Havertz (Félix 59), Sterling	Dubravka; Trippier, Schär, Botman, Targett (Burn 75); Guimarães, Anderson (Miley 76), Gordon (Murphy 69); Almirón, Isak (Lewis 88), Saint-Maximin (Wilson 69)
Subs not used Mendy, Mudryk, Ziyech, Koulibaly	*Subs not used* Karius, Dummett, Gillespie, Ashby

Referee Jarred Gillett **Attendance** 40,130

Pochettino signs deal and gets ready to start rebuild

Former Spurs coach to take over at Chelsea on three-year contract after woeful season

Jacob Steinberg
Stamford Bridge

Mauricio Pochettino is set to begin the job of rebuilding Chelsea after signing a three-year deal to become their head coach.

Chelsea, who have endured a campaign to forget since last year's £2.5bn takeover by Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital, have been under pressure to make the right appointment since sacking Graham Potter. They have had four managers this season.

The chaos began when Boehly and Clearlake, which was founded by Behdad Eghbali and Jose Feliciano, fired the popular Thomas Tuchel last September. Chelsea took Potter from Brighton but the appointment backfired. Potter was fired and Bruno Saltor took charge of one game before Frank Lampard was made interim head coach.

Lampard has been unable to inspire an improvement and Chelsea, who have spent close to £600m on signings since last summer, will hope Pochettino can lift them. The appointment of the former Tottenham manager, out of work since leaving Paris Saint-Germain last year, should be announced this week. The search was led by Chelsea's sporting directors, Paul Winstanley and Laurence Stewart.

Pochettino emerged as the favoured choice after Chelsea conducted an exhaustive process during which they held talks with the former Bayern Munich manager Julian Nagelsmann and the former Spain manager Luis Enrique. The Argentinian has a track record of working with young players and his man-management skills are impressive.

Pochettino will inherit an unhappy, bloated squad and Chelsea, who have finished 12th, will need to sell players. They will prioritise signing a central midfielder and are chasing Sporting Lisbon's Manuel Ugarte, who is a target for Liverpool and Paris Saint-Germain.

Chelsea will not be playing in Europe next season and there is pressure on the board after a troubled campaign. But there is a belief that Pochettino is the man to steady the ship. His backroom staff will include his No 2, Jesús Pérez, his first-team coach, Miguel D'Agostino, his goalkeeping coach, Toni Jiménez, and his son Sebastiano, a sports scientist.

After the Newcastle game Lampard was asked about Pochettino. "I don't want to get caught on the appointment until it comes," he said. "I am a big fan of Pochettino as a manager. He is a very good manager but it's not about which individual it might be, it is about getting the right, high level of manager.

"Of course, Pochettino's history tells you he works with clubs of this level. Let him get to work with the players to create a solid identity of a team that can win more games. Those things are not always overnight things.

"Standards collectively have dropped. I can say that now as it's my last game because I may not see some of them again.

"If you are not vocal in the dressing room and driving each other on … Any top team has to have that. I could see we didn't when I came in. A very good manager will help with that but everyone has to take responsibility for that."

There was an insistence from Lampard that he will be back in management. "It's not affected my drive to do this job. I enjoy the job. I understand sometimes it can look a bit fruitless from the outside if you're not getting the results but every manager will go through a variation of that in some way. I'll have a break first then see."

> ***'Standards have dropped. I can say that now as it's my last game because I may not see some of them again'***
>
> **Frank Lampard**
> *Chelsea interim manager*



▲ *Mauricio Pochettino has a track record of working with young players*
LOÏC VENANCE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Fun in the sun cannot put a gloss on Saints' goodbyes

Southampton 4
Ward-Prowse 19, Sulemana 28 47, A Armstrong 64

Liverpool 4
Jota 10 73, Firmino 14, Gakpo 72

Jonathan Wilson
St Mary's Stadium

Pack up the euphoniums, lay down the drumsticks, put away the trumpets. If they thought the Premier League would last for ever they were wrong. There is always something slightly mournful about the pre-kick off playing of When the Saints Going Marching in and perhaps never more so than yesterday with the brass band hinting it could be one of the causalities of the cost-cutting that will inevitably follow relegation. The chaotically defiant, entirely unfunereal, performance that followed does not change that.

That is the sad truth when a team goes down. The players, the first-team coaches and the directors will, by and large, be fine. Fans may weep, but for all the self-pity of a subset of modern support, most will be back next season, happy enough at a day out with family or friends, whoever the opposition. The people who suffer are those in less visible roles, the academy coaches, the analysts, the catering staff and - perhaps - the brass band. That's where the cuts fall and where they are felt.

It was a day of farewells. Liverpool said goodbye to Roberto Firmino and James Milner, neither of whose contracts have been renewed after eight years at Liverpool; Firmino's future is unclear while it seems likely Milner will begin his 22nd season as a pro at Brighton. Southampton probably said goodbye to James Ward-Prowse, given a standing ovation as he was subbed off with four minutes to go.

"He has been here for 20 years," said Rubén Sellés. "He has been the captain and he deserved that moment with the crowd to end the season that hasn't been easy."

They definitely said goodbye to Theo Walcott, warmly applauded, and Sellés. He looked the part, had the advantage of not being Nathan Jones, took points off Liverpool, Arsenal, Manchester United, Tottenham and Chelsea but won just twice.

And most significantly, Southampton said goodbye to the Premier League after 11 years, proof that clubs that are hailed as models for other non-super-clubs to follow are only ever a couple of bad decisions from collapse. Money doesn't guarantee success - spending £127m in the last two windows was arguably the problem, but lots of it provides a very useful safety net.

Beside the farewells, there was nothing at all to play for. Southampton were guaranteed to be bottom; Liverpool were guaranteed to be fifth. It was an open, pressure-free jolly in the spring sunshine, a game that had all the intensity of a bank holiday Sunday in a beer garden; Liverpool fans seemed more preoccupied with Everton's relegation situation than the match happening in front of them.

Jürgen Klopp mainly seemed happy the season was over even if he has been reinvigorated by the run off 11 games unbeaten with which Liverpool finished the season. "There were moments when we thought the season was four years long," he said. "There are times when you have to admit there were four teams who were better than us. Teams were happy to play us and I hated that. But the last 10, 11 games helped us to realise we can be challengers again."



Final tip of seesaw match

Diogo Jota makes it 4-4 in a game in which both sides fought back from two goals down
ANDREW POWELL/ LIVERPOOL FC/ GETTY IMAGES

Comical home defending gifted Liverpool two goals in the opening quarter-hour. First Roméo Lavia, having been put under a certain amount of pressure by Jan Bednarek and Alex McCarthy, rolled the ball across the box to allow Diogo Jota to clip into an empty net. Bednarek and Lyanco were then befuddled by what may have been a dummy but was probably a mis-kick from Firmino as he knocked in a second with Lyanco scrabbling around on his backside.

Ward-Prowse pulled one back then Firmino, who had bought gift boxes for the Liverpool staff as a parting gift, was just as generous to Southampton, presenting the ball to Walcott, who fed Kamaldeen Sulemana for his first goal for the club to make it 2-2 by half-time. "You know Southampton players want to pay back these people," Klopp said, "and we let them."

A second for Southampton's record signing came via a sumptuous finish and Adam Armstrong soon notched the fourth. But the openness and disorganisation was universal. Trent Alexander-Arnold laid on a tap-in for Cody Gakpo, before Jota surged through to level.

At the final whistle, Don't Look Back in Anger played over the PA. And that's probably reasonable enough: 11 years is a decent stint in the Premier League for a club of Southampton's stature. But there will be a lot of looking back in puzzlement at the signings made in the last two windows and, especially, at the managerial appointments.

Southampton
4-2-3-1
McCarthy; Bree, Bednarek, Lyanco, Walker-Peters; Ward-Prowse (Amo-Ameyaw 87), Lavia (A Armstrong 63); Walcott (Livramento 77), Alcaraz, Elyounoussi (S Armstrong 64); Sulemana (Ballard 86)
Subs not used Bazunu, Aribo, Doyle, Caleta-Car

Liverpool
4-3-3
Kelleher; Alexander-Arnold, Gomez, Matip, Tsimikas (Elliott 57); Milner, Fabinho (Henderson 57), Jones (Gakpo 57); Salah, Firmino (Díaz 57), Jota
Subs not used Adrián, Konaté, Carvalho, Arthur, R Williams

Referee Darren England **Attendance** 31,129

Ten Hag sends pointed recruitment message after Fernandes seals win

Manchester United 2
Sancho 39, Fernandes 55

Fulham 1
Tete 19

Jamie Jackson
Old Trafford

After a victory that secured Manchester United third place on 75 points Erik ten Hag offered what could be read as a dig at the hierarchy for failing to back him in the January transfer window.

Then, Liverpool bought Cody Gakpo (for £37m), Newcastle recruited Anthony Gordon (£45m), and Chelsea splurged £320m-plus on eight players including Enzo Fernández and Mykhailo Mudryk. Yet after Cristiano Ronaldo's departure during the World Cup and Christian Eriksen's serious injury in January, Ten Hag secured only loans for Wout Weghorst and Marcel Sabitzer.

Ten Hag was asked about his summer recruitment plans. "The club knows if you want to play top four, compete for trophies in this tough league, then you have to invest, otherwise you don't have a chance because other clubs will do," he said. "We've seen it in the winter: all the clubs around us made huge investments, we didn't, but still we made it, so I'm proud of my team."

Ten Hag now switches focus to beating Manchester City in the FA Cup final on Saturday and halting the tilt of United's neighbour at emulating Sir Alex Ferguson's 1999 vintage by claiming the treble.

Ten Hag said: "You always have a chance in football. History shows we beat them in January and that Man United in the last couple of years beat City many times. So these players know when they play at their levels they can compete. It's obvious we play against the best team, but there is a chance and we have to give everything. We can't find excuses for ourselves after the game. I'm sure we will play a good game."

The Dutchman can enjoy a boost, too, from a defeat of Fulham that showed spirit, energy and 110mph football that may be the best hope of overcoming the champions at Wembley. They may also have Antony after Ten Hag revealed that the winger "probably will be available".

As all season here, the game was contested in the noisy atmosphere which is the corollary of an entertainment factor under Ten Hag that yesterday featured a comeback win.



▲ *Jadon Sancho stretches out to score Manchester United's equaliser*

Kenny Tete gave Fulham the lead after David de Gea's latest failure to make an aerial contribution when required. Willian pitched in a corner from the left and up rose the Fulham right-back unchallenged (Marcus Rashford headed air), Tete squeezing the ball home at the near post.

If this was not brilliant from De Gea, the next act was. Harry Maguire - possibly in a last Old Trafford outing for United - had a pass intercepted and when Tom Cairney skipped right in the area Casemiro fouled him and Robert Jones awarded the penalty. Aleksandar Mitrovic hit this to De Gea's left and the Spaniard dived low to make a fine save, his first here from the spot since a Leighton Baines effort in 2014.

De Gea is usually poker-faced but he celebrated, as did his colleagues and the delighted home crowd. Inspired, United rushed up the other end and had a couple of chances. In a lightning move, Diogo Dalot robbed Willian and tapped to Casemiro, whose weighted ball allowed Rashford to feed Fred, who found Bruno Fernandes. The Portuguese's instant pass (the fifth of the sequence) played in Alejandro Garnacho, who could not score. Even closer was the chance engineered when Tyrell Malacia side-footed again to Garnacho and the youngster crashed his shot off Bernd Leno's bar.

United were behind yet ebullient and their mood was about to skyrocket. Fernandes adores leading the charge and for an umpteenth time the No 8 created a goal. The key part was holding off Sasa Lukic which, after a twirl, was followed by possession being stroked to Fred. As the Brazilian pulled the trigger he was caught in a Tosin Adarabioyo-Tete sandwich, the ball ricocheted to Jadon Sancho, who rolled in the equaliser.

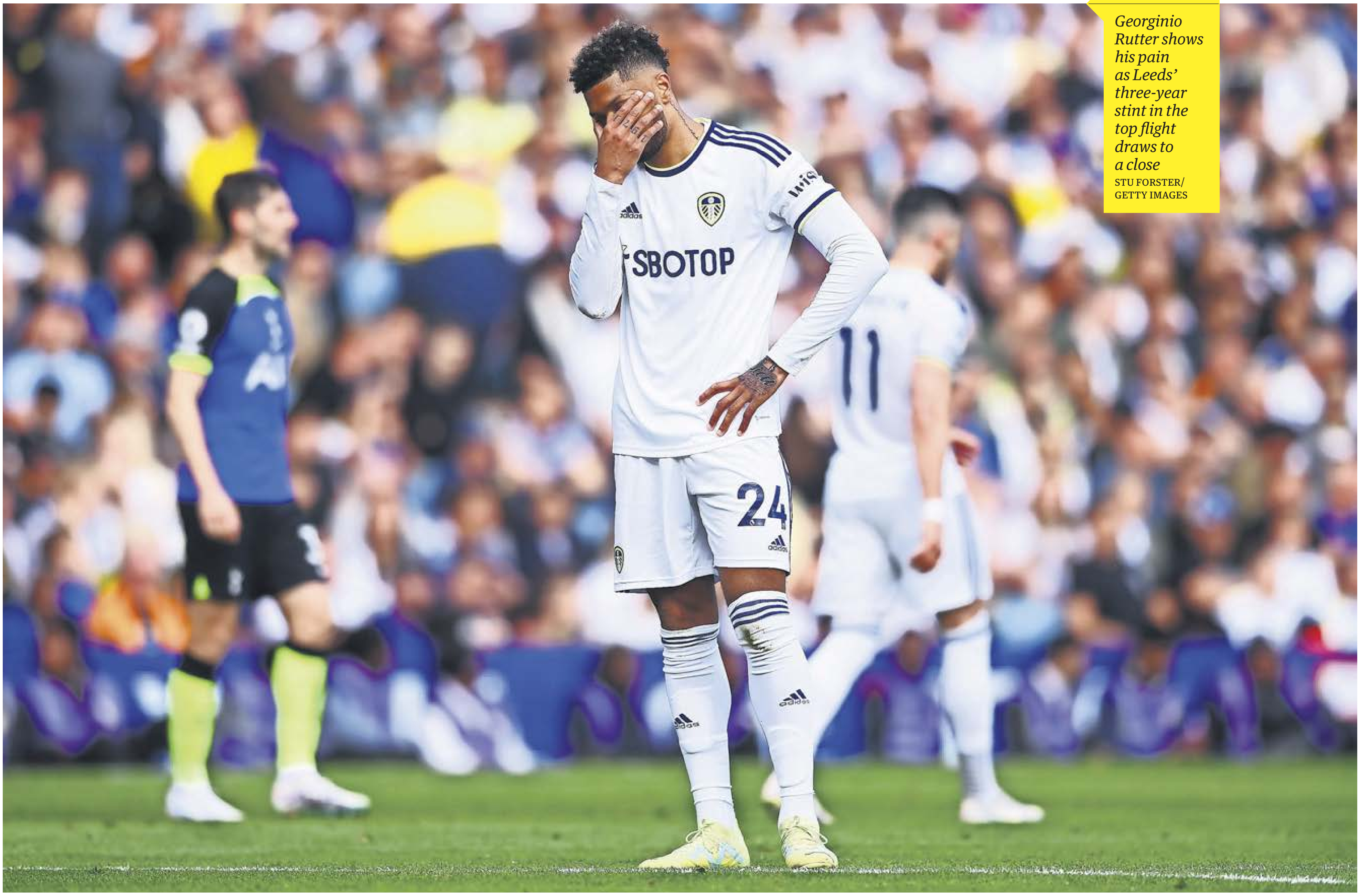
The last time this fixture was staged here (in the Cup in March) Fulham self-combusted in 40 seconds of madness featuring three red cards that were superseded by Fernandes scoring a penalty to level the score. Now, his goal gave United three points and he could thank Fred, who fashioned a defence-bisecting pass that allowed Fernandes to dink home.

Manchester United
4-2-3-1
De Gea; Dalot, Maguire, Lindelöf, Malacia; Casemiro (McTominay 67, Fred (Eriksen 66); Sancho, Fernandes (Pellistri 84), Garnacho (Martial 67); Rashford (Weghorst 77)
Subs not used Butland, Varane, Shaw, Wan-Bissaka

Fulham
4-2-3-1
Leno; Tete, Adarabioyo, Diop, Robinson; Palhinha, Lukic (Reed 66); Cairney (James 80), Wilson (Solomon 66), Willian; Mitrovic (Vinícius 80)
Subs not used Rodak, Soares, Dibley-Dias, DeCordova-Reid, Kebano

Referee Robert Jones **Attendance** 73,465

Leeds suffer sinking feeling



Georginio Rutter shows his pain as Leeds' three-year stint in the top flight draws to a close
STU FORSTER/GETTY IMAGES

Kane cashes in to send Leeds down with whimper

Leeds	**1**
Harrison 67	
Tottenham	**4**
Kane 2 69, Porro 47, Lucas Moura 90	

David Hytner
Elland Road

It was the moment when it really turned ugly, the fury and frustration that the Leeds support felt rushing to the surface and spilling everywhere. Pedro Porro had scored at the start of the second half to put Tottenham 2-0 up and, from all corners of Elland Road, came the cry: "You're not fit to wear the shirt."

Leeds had needed a miracle to retain their Premier League status. A first win in nine games and the results involving Everton and Leicester to go for them, too. They needed to find some cohesion. And they needed to defend properly, which they have not done for an awfully long time.

It was always likely to prove beyond them. But now there was mutiny. Leeds were going down with one of the game's most grievous insults ringing in their ears and there would be further choruses of it after the substitute Lucas Moura - on his farewell Spurs appearance - made it 4-1 in stoppage-time.

At 2-0, the Leeds fans urged the owner, Andrea Radrizzani, to sell up and return to Italy - or words to that effect. There were repeated calls of "sack the board", there was abuse for Weston McKennie when he was substituted and it would be quicker to say which Leeds players were spared after the full-time whistle when they did an extremely nervous small circle of appreciation: Adam Forshaw, Liam Cooper, Jack Harrison and Wilfried Gnonto.

It was a desperate day for everyone connected to the club, heavy on recrimination, with only the occasional splashes of gallows humour. When a pitch invader was wrestled away in the 77th minute by a posse of security guards, there was a demand for the hierarchy to sign him up. "He's got more fight than you," was the follow-up chant to the team.

Harry Kane scored the other goals for Spurs to reach 30 for the league season - the focus will now turn to his future - although he was quick to say that eighth place was not good enough. Spurs have failed to qualify for Europe for the first time since 2008-09.

The focus was on Leeds and it picked out so much more than the pipe-dream of Sam Allardyce's attempted rescue mission. When the story of their last three seasons is told - their first stint in the top flight since 2004 - it will major on the communion under Marcelo Bielsa, whose name the fans bellowed; how the club appeared ready to kick on after the ninth-placed finish of 2020-21.

How they have regressed from a position of strength is scarcely believable on one level and yet entirely so on many others. This is Leeds, the trap-door never far away. They have paid for making so many poor decisions, especially on the recruitment front.

Leeds had survived on the final day of last season when they won at Brentford and saw their relegation rivals, Burnley, lose at home against Newcastle. The hope was that history could somehow repeat itself, however outlandish it seemed at kick-off time, and it quickly came to feel even more that way when Kane scored after 93 seconds.

Allardyce had made a tactical change, setting up with five at the back, Pascal Struijk asked to make a left wing-back role work for the team, which felt like a big ask. He started badly, allowing Porro to run inside him on to an Emerson Royal chip; Struijk was on his heels. Porro worked the ball to Son Heung-min, it was an easy pass from him to Kane and the finish was a formality.

Leeds's chaotic defending was a feature. Of course it was. It has been a motif of the season. There was a moment midway through the first half when Rasmus Kristensen stopped rather than move to clear a punt out of the Spurs defence, allowing Dejan Kulusevski to break from halfway and feed Son. Kristensen got back to tackle but even then Leeds almost gave the ball straight back to Spurs inside their area.

By then, Struijk and Max Wöber had each been forced to commit yellow-card fouls to stop Spurs breaks. Leeds were on the edge. The crowd were on edge, too, howling.

Robin Koch spurned a glorious chance to equalise in the seventh minute, heading wide when all alone inside the area following Rodrigo's ball in from the right. But it was mostly rudimentary stuff from Leeds; frantic, too, little composure in the areas that mattered. The first half was summed up for them when Harrison missed his pass to Rodrigo on an attempted short corner. There were boos at the interval.

It was all over with less than 90 seconds of the second half gone even if - the hard truth be told - Leeds never looked alive, capable of manufacturing something to give them hope. Allardyce would lament individual errors and Struijk was guilty of another one when he miscued a Kane pass to let Porro in. The finish was drilled low into the far corner.

Harrison, who had tears in his eyes when he was substituted late on, pulled a goal back but it was merely the prompt for another soft concession, Leeds wide open as Kane scored on the counter.

Lucas Moura's goal was a gem. He sliced past four would-be tacklers and it was a fitting finale for a player who will always be remembered for his last-gasp Champions League semi-final winner at Ajax. It was a neat counterpoint to the Leeds misery.

Leeds
5-4-1
Robles; Ayling, Kristensen, Cooper, Wöber (Firpo 60), Struijk (Aaronson 59); McKennie (Rutter 60), Forshaw, Koch, Harrison (Gnonto 80); Rodrigo
Subs not used Meslier, Greenwood, Roca, Summerville, Chilokoa-Mullen

Tottenham
4-3-3
Forster; Emerson, Sánchez, Lenglet, Davies; Porro (Lucas Moura 90), Skipp (Abbott 90), Bissouma (Craig 77); Kulusevski (Sarr 67), Kane, Son (Richarlison 76)
Subs not used Austin, Danjuma, Tanganga, Santiago

Referee Anthony Taylor

Analysis

Louise Taylor *Elland Road*



Not fit to wear the shirt? The squad is weak but fans were let down by baffling board decisions

As kick-off approached the strains of Don't You Forget About Me by Simple Minds drifted over the sound system. Maybe it was the acoustics, but the lyrics sounded particularly plaintive. By the final whistle no song would have been sufficiently forlorn to match the mood as wholesale boos signalled that Leeds had just experienced football's equivalent of stepping off the edge of the world.

After winning only seven Premier League games all season and conceding 78 goals, more than anyone else, Sam Allardyce's side had been erased from the top-flight map. Results elsewhere dictated that even if Leeds had won they would have ended up in the Championship but a 4-1 defeat by a Tottenham side whose underachievement is such they have failed to qualify for Europe exacerbated the anguish.

It also confirmed that Allardyce's experiment with a back five had failed. There is a strong argument that his two managerial predecessors this season – Jesse Marsch and Javi Gracia – should have implemented a defensive quintet much earlier but when, with barely a minute gone, Son Heung-min squared for an unmarked Harry Kane to score with characteristic incision Allardyce's system suffered a major malfunction.

Leeds fans responded by chanting the name of their much-loved former manager Marcelo Bielsa who, three years ago, led the team back into the top tier after a 16-year absence.

If sacking Bielsa last year was the right decision, those supporters have subsequently been let down by a series of baffling boardroom manoeuvres. If replacing the Argentinian with Marsch made little sense, spending £35m on making Georginio Rutter the club's record signing in January when the France Under-21s forward is nowhere near ready for the first team appears incomprehensible. Rutter came off the bench here but had the hamstrung Patrick Bamford been even half fit the former Hoffenheim forward would almost certainly have remained on it. Bamford with one leg in plaster might have been the better option.

When Robin Koch – converted to an anchoring midfielder by Allardyce and one of five natural centre-halves in the Leeds XI – headed Rodrigo's highly inviting cross wide a gathering sense of foreboding intensified.

Already, the exhilarating crescendo of noise which greeted kick-off had diminished to the point where individual voices in the crowd became audible.

With local emotions best described as raw it was at this point that the Leeds hierarchy could have done with ear plugs. There was a telling cameo when shock and anger passed across the face of Luke Ayling, the team's stalwart right-back, as he retrieved the ball from spectators in the West Stand.

Well before Allardyce's players were booed off at half-time the Leeds owner, Andrea Radrizzani, would have heard his name sung in a most unflattering manner. Radrizzani hopes that the San Francisco-based 49er Enterprises will shortly buy his majority share, enabling him to purchase Sampdoria, but that long-mooted full Elland Road takeover has been placed on hold.

> *Before Allardyce's players were booed off at half-time the Leeds owner's name was sung in a most unflattering manner*

Although some key investors in the 49ers Leeds project are set to step aside, a buyout may still, eventually, take place – but with the Championship club valued at about £150m rather than more than £400m.

Considerable compromise also beckons in the dugout. Any hopes the board might have harboured about hiring Graham Potter or Brendan Rodgers look remote. Indeed perhaps the real puzzle is that Tottenham are not begging Rodgers to fill their vacancy. Things went wrong for the Northern Irishman at Leicester but if form is temporary, class is permanent and Rodgers possesses plenty of the latter.

Unfortunately quality is not a word that applies to Pascal Struijk, at least not in the context of deployment in a left wing-back role. After being blindsided by Son in the preamble to Kane's opener, Struijk, a centre-half by trade, proved badly at fault before Pedro Porro struck Tottenham's second goal at the start of the second half.

As Elland Road chorused: "You're not fit to wear the shirt," – a sentiment probably directed more at the midfielder Weston McKennie than Struijk – the shallowness of a committed yet limited Leeds squad was emphasised. Recruitment has been very poor and Victor Orta, the former director of football, has much to answer for.

At least Leeds should be able to sell Jack Harrison for a decent sum. The winger briefly lifted the mood by temporarily reducing the deficit before, two minutes later, Kane registered his 30th league goal of the season. It proved the cue for another rousing rendition of "Sack the board".

Allardyce had said that, at 68, he was bored of a life in retirement featuring plenty of walks around his local reservoir, repeated poached eggs on toast for lunch and an encyclopaedic knowledge of the latest televised dramas.

As Lucas Moura skipped beyond a quarter of supposed markers to score Tottenham's fourth goal, Big Sam could have been forgiven for feeling that maybe life wasn't greener on the other side of the fence after all.

Despite Allardyce claiming he is open to potentially remaining in charge that reservoir can rarely have looked so appealing.



▲ *Sam Allardyce (left) fielded a back five that failed to keep Spurs at bay*
SCOTT HEPPELL/REUTERS

▼ *Douglas Luiz beats Jason Steele to score the first goal for Aston Villa*
GEOFF CADDICK/AFP/GETTY



Emery enjoys 'champagne moment' of European slot

Aston Villa	**2**
Douglas Luiz 8, Watkins 26	
Brighton	**1**
Undav 38	

Ben Bloom
Villa Park

When the fixtures for this season were first released, it was a song no one expected to hear on the final day at Villa Park. But as the celebrations began at the sound of the final whistle, supporters of both sides joyously launched into a most unlikely rendition. "We're all going on a European tour," they happily sang to one another.

With Brighton's first continental venture in their 122-year history already assured, this hugely entertaining Aston Villa win meant the home side will join them in Europe for the first time since 2010. A campaign that initially looked to be dominated by fears of the Championship extraordinarily ended with a spot in the Europa Conference League.

Included on the Premier League manager of the season shortlist this month, few coaches can claim as unexpected an impact as Unai Emery, who took charge of a club languishing in the bottom five in November and bracing themselves for a long relegation fight. That he turned the campaign into one that yielded European football is staggering. To do so with almost entirely the same playing squad as his predecessor Steven Gerrard even more remarkable.

"Historically, this is a great team," said Emery. "We won the European Cup a long time ago, but we can now try to improve and get an ambitious step ahead. This is the first step.

"I want to enjoy what we achieved because it's fantastic. We are going to play in Europe. It's very important to celebrate and enjoy it. I like champagne – I think today is a champagne moment."

In players such as Jacob Ramsey, Tyrone Mings, John McGinn, Douglas Luiz and Ollie Watkins, Emery has inspired repeated brilliance since taking the reins. That core quintet were again pillars at the heart of this triumph.

Ramsey is realising a dream at his boyhood club and he proved a constant nuisance, creating both early Villa goals on the day he turned 22. So scared were the Brighton defence that they habitually stood off the birthday boy, allowing him to exhibit poise to great effect when expertly picking out Douglas Luiz for the opener.

Villa's second was all about his pace, bursting behind the defence and unselfishly passing for Watkins to tap into the vacant goal. The only thing missing from Ramsey's performance was a goal of his own – a gap left unfilled by an astonishing miss 10 minutes into the second half when he somehow failed to convert into an empty net from three yards out.

Villa continued to threaten, even as nerves jangled with Tottenham winning at Leeds, repeatedly laying siege on the Brighton goal until the death, albeit without joy.

A much-altered Brighton side played their part in a match played at breakneck speed. The visitors thought they had an early goal, only for Julio Enciso – whose pinpoint cross had been turned in by Deniz Undav – to be ruled offside by VAR.

Where that decision gave Villa fans a belated celebration, Brighton soon had some delayed gratification of their own when Undav was wrongly judged offside as the German fired past Emiliano Martínez. Again, VAR overturned the decision, allowing the goal to stand.

Defeat did not dampen the spirits of the travelling fans, who said farewell to Alexis Mac Allister and Moisés Caicedo in the expectation that they will depart. "I'm really sorry because they are two great people and two great players," said the manager, Roberto De Zerbi. "But the policy of Brighton is like this and we have to accept. We have to find other big players to play without them."

Aston Villa
4-2-3-1
Martínez; Cash●, Konsa, Mings●, Digne; Kamara, Douglas Luiz; Bailey (Buendía 69), McGinn●, J Ramsey●; Watkins
Subs not used
Olsen, Diego Carlos, Traoré, Chambers, Young, Dendoncker, Revan, Patterson

Brighton
4-2-3-1
Steele; Veltman (Estupiñán ht), Webster (Van Hecke 65), Colwill, Gross●; Ayari (Caicedo ht), Mac Allister; Buonanotte●, Undav● (Hinshelwood 89), Enciso (Mitoma 65); Ferguson
Subs not used
McGill, Dunk, Welbeck, Gilmour

Referee David Coote

Leicester cheers turn to jeers as top-flight stay comes to an end



Leicester 2
Barnes 34, Faes 62

West Ham 1
Fornals 79

Ben Fisher
King Power Stadium

For Leicester City, never has a win felt so utterly crushing. Victory over West Ham on the final day of the season was insufficient to avoid relegation to the Championship, seven years on from lifting the Premier League title here, six on from reaching the Champions League quarter-finals and two on from winning the FA Cup.

A bereft James Maddison, among those set to depart, crouched on the grass at the final whistle and Leicester's players huddled around the phone of Victor Kristiansen, who was not in the squad, praying for a late twist in their favour as stoppage time continued at Goodison Park. A couple of fans had radios glued to their ears in hope of a swing that was not forthcoming.

Twenty-four hours earlier Leicester's women avoided relegation on the final day of the Women's Super League season but a repeat proved wishful thinking. "Come on Bournemouth," was the desperate chant from the Leicester fans.

During the game there were a couple of false alarms, moments whereby the anxious home support thought Bournemouth had scored at Everton, but Leicester's nine-year top-flight stay was up. Confirmation brought a mixture of jeers and cheers and the players orbited the centre circle applauding downbeat fans. Youri Tielemans, among eight players out of contract this summer, waved goodbye before trudging down the tunnel. "Say hello to Millwall," came the sarcastic chant from the West Ham supporters looking forward to a Europa Conference League final in Prague next month.

A bereft James Maddison, among those set to depart, crouched on the grass at the final whistle



▲ *Dean Smith consoles James Maddison at the end of the match*

Things had all been going so well for Leicester until news of Abdoulaye Doucouré's goal for Everton filtered through here. Harvey Barnes's fine first-half goal paved the way to victory but suddenly a revved-up crowd was decidedly flat, silenced as reality set in. A couple of minutes later Saïd Benrahma rattled a post and any hope of a late, great escape was nearly all over there and then. The beaming smile on the face of Wout Faes after the defender headed in a Tielemans free-kick to double Leicester's lead felt somewhat cruel. Who was going to tell him?

A few minutes before kick-off, the unmistakable sound of the bugle as Paul Hing performed the post-horn gallop he has played on Filbert Street for the past 14 years. Then the Premier League's psychedelic pre-match anthem kicked in. It remains to be seen when it will be heard again here. A Leicester win was imperative if they were to have any chance of overhauling Everton. Dean Smith, who took charge with seven weeks and eight games remaining, laboured the point that Leicester had to focus on doing their bit, and they did. But the galling thing was that it was not enough.

In recent weeks there has been an air of resignation among Leicester supporters. And who can really blame them? They had won one of their previous 16 matches. But Smith pointed to Monday's draw at Newcastle, in which they kept a first clean sheet in the league since November, as character-building. That result also ensured Leicester started the final day above Leeds in the table. Nevertheless, safety was always out of their hands. "The odds may be against us, but we've overcome the odds before," the Leicester chairman, Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha, said in his programme notes.

Leicester had a few nearly moments before seizing the lead through Barnes. Kelechi Iheanacho, preferred to Jamie Vardy in attack, pulled a shot wide after Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall's shot pinballed off Vladimir Coufal and then Nayef Aguerd. Soon after Aguerd was alert to steal the ball from Iheanacho after the striker collected Jonny Evans's arcing diagonal pass. Iheanacho was busy and he grazed the woodwork approaching the half-hour. Iheanacho plucked Barnes's cross out of the air, collected a one-two off Maddison and clipped the top of the crossbar.

Iheanacho looked to the skies in frustration but six minutes later every outfield player ran to a corner of this bouncing stadium to celebrate Barnes's brilliantly taken goal. Barnes burned down the left flank and then punched a pass into Iheanacho, who had pinned Thilo Kehrer, one of six changes made by David Moyes. Barnes did not stop there and carried on into the box, ghosting past Flynn Downes and Iheanacho cleverly slipped his teammate in with a first-time pass. Barnes composed himself before steering a shot into the far pocket of Lukasz Fabianski's goal.

Declan Rice again captained West Ham, with Moyes resisting any temptation to rest his star man. "I thought he played great, he put in another swashbuckling-type performance," Moyes said. "I have been really pleased with how well he's played over the season, he's been exceptional the way he's played and the way he's conducted himself. Now he's got the big moment to see if he can lift a trophy for West Ham, he needs to try and get ready and see how that looks."

The sight of Daniel Iversen claiming a dangerous Aaron Cresswell in-swinging corner, moments after Evans came close to scoring an own goal from one, was greeted by rapturous applause from the home support.

The West Ham substitute Danny Ings should have got the visitors on the scoreboard before Pablo Fornals fired a shot past Iversen in off a post but this was an afternoon when the



Barnes gives hope before the agony

Harvey Barnes beats Lukasz Fabianski to score the first goal and temporarily lift Leicester out of the bottom three
JOE GIDDENS/PA

12
Leicester's relegation is their ***12th from the top flight*** *of English football, with no side suffering the drop more (Birmingham City also 12)*

78
Leeds went down having ***conceded more goals than any other team*** *in 2022-23. They are the first side to concede 75+ in consecutive seasons (79 in 2021-22)*

70
Everton's survival means next season will be their ***70th consecutive top-flight season****, the second-longest ever run by an English side (Arsenal 98, including next season).*

result turned out to be immaterial. Leicester emerged for the second half to a hero's welcome but there was an altogether different, more sombre mood at the final whistle.

Leicester
4-3-3
Iversen; Castagne (Pereira 90), Faes, Evans, Thomas; Soumaré, Tielemans, Dewsbury-Hall (Mendy 71); Maddison, Iheanacho (Vardy 77), Barnes
Subs not used
Smithies, Souttar, Tetê, Amartey, Daka, Praet

West Ham
4-3-3
Fabianski; Coufal, Kehrer, Aguerd, Cresswell (Emerson 71); Rice, Downes (Lanzini 86), Paquetá (Cornet 71); Fornals, Antonio (Ings 62), Benrahma (Bowen 62)
Subs not used
Aréola, Zouma, Ogbonna, Soucek

Referee Simon Hooper

Analysis
Barney Ronay *King Power Stadium*



Decline of former champions born out of carelessness

As the clock ticked past 80 minutes at the King Power Stadium, with Leicester beating West Ham but hostage entirely to events at Goodison Park, it felt fitting that this should be one of those relegations sung to its rest by ghosts of other games, of goals unscored, energy waves, rumours, the Mexican wave of death.

Several times through those final 10 minutes the ground was gripped by sudden contortions of false joy, leaping, roaring sections of crowd lifted by news of fake survival, reality-lag, non-redemption. If Bournemouth score a non-goal and nobody tells the King Power it doesn't exist: is that non-goal still a goal? And who does Youri Tielemans sign for next season?

Disbelief was a theme of the day. Even Leicester's impressively pointless 2-1 final-day victory seemed to fit the pattern. Generally teams go down because of identifiable causes. Lack of playing talent, cyclical downturn, black swan events. Sometimes, as they say in comforting American movies starring Morgan Freeman, it is just your time.

Here is a sporting collapse that seems to be born above all out of carelessness. Leicester have been relegated because they forgot not to be relegated. From Premier League winners and Champions League hopefuls to a sleepy march into relegation. This feels like the definition of a sporting volte-face. Or Wout Faes as we call it around here.

In isolation it should come as no surprise that Leicester have been relegated just seven years after winning the league. The much greater surprise is that they won the league in the first place. It is just the way it has come about. Has there been a more distracted, avoidable slide into Premier League relegation in recent memory? No team with James Maddison, Harvey Barnes and Youri Tielemans should be this bad. Welcome to Leicester: anatomy of an accidental relegation.

The King Power had been a fizzy, anxious, distracted place at kick-off. There was a cajoling half hour from the PA and a ripple of the Leicester clappers around this low blue-fringed bowl. Whatever happened here would be meaningless should Everton beat Bournemouth. A goal either way at Goodison would light the fuse or drench the whole thing in a bucket of mulch.

For 45 minutes that didn't happen. Leicester got on with the job of beating a neat, half-speed West Ham. Everton were unable, for now, to get the jump on Bournemouth. Leicester's goal before half-time came from Barnes, who played a slick one-two with Kelechi Iheanacho, shifted his hips at full speed and rolled the ball daintily into the far corner.

Even this felt like another moment of double take. Teams in this much trouble don't score goals like that. They score from flick-ons and set-piece bundles. They score wild-eyed desperation goals. They don't create artful, architecturally satisfying bursts of speed and precision passing. Remind me. Why are you down here again?

Has there been a more distracted, avoidable slide into Premier League relegation in recent memory?

It is a good question, and one yet to be answered. For now there is no real story here, no grand flaw. Just a lack of resistance, a sense of drift and sallowness. Here we have a team of *flaneurs*, out there flouncing through the season. But ultimately rot spreads from the top, and there is plenty of evidence of slack practice and missed moments, the kind of sickness that eats through a sporting culture.

There is talk of overspend, departing finance directors, player contracts all expiring together; of disproportionally amazing training ground but no summer signings. Players have disappeared for long periods, with dark talk of fallings out and anti-chemistry behind the scenes.

But Leicester still won four league games in a row in the autumn, a third of all the points you need to stay up. From there they collapsed like a sandcastle in a thunderstorm. They lost eight rapid-fire league games and drew one from February into April, which was to be the death sequence.

And while it seems overly simple to blame Brendan Rodgers, we should still blame Brendan Rodgers all the same, as the one person in a position to mask these flaws and make this thing work.

Perhaps Rodgers bought a little too readily into the no-quitters mantra. In the event he just seemed to grow cold and damp and mouldy in his seat, shrouded in gloom, weeds flowering around his feet, like some Tolkien-style spirit of earthly gloom. Perhaps money played a part. Whatever the reason, it left a space at the heart of the season, a sense of drift and drag.

With 57 minutes on the clock the day changed. Abdoulaye Doucouré's goal at Goodison arrived as a kind of simulcast at the King Power Stadium, out there on the pitch flickering just out of sight, sucking the air right out of the ground.

A few minutes later Leicester broke the hush round the ground by making it 2-0, Faes heading in. There was a cheer, then more silence. Pablo Fornals pulled one back. It looked a little easy. But then there is simply a lack of glue, adhesion, fibre in the heart of this whizzy, lightweight blue substance. Imagine going down because Everton have won a game.

At the end there was a nice moment as Jamie Vardy took a round of gentle applause, out there on the bridge even as the bow dips below the waves. This was applause for happier times, fonder memories, for what had gone before. For now it is goodbye, once and for all, to all that.



▶ *Anxious Leicester fans hoping to hear news of a Bournemouth goal*
JOE GIDDENS/PA

Allardyce fears Leeds could struggle to bounce back

Continued *from back page*

up] was the main job. We had to get this sorted out; we've got it over the line. It was absolutely the key focus. Now it is time to immediately refocus on the rest of it."

Everton started without a recognised striker or full-backs because of injury and the imbalance of their squad. Dyche said: "It's a horrible day for all concerned. There is no joy in it for me other than getting the job done … I came in here to change a mentality and I think there have been signs of that. There is still more to go. I said to the players: 'We shouldn't be in this position. Enjoy today, you've earned it, but it has got to change.'"

Sam Allardyce warned that Leeds could struggle in the second tier, offering a stark, unvarnished, message for the board. "There is a lot of work to be done here next season, even in the Championship," said the 68-year-old, who is open to remaining in charge.

"Goals need to be scored and you need goalscorers to score them. The squad is a little on the young side and lacks experience. As a squad they haven't been good enough You can't keep making unforced errors. We gifted Tottenham three goals today. Which way does the club want to go?"

Allardyce said taking one point from his four games represented "a huge disappointment" but that he could not blame his players for lack of effort. He will hold discussions regarding his future.

"Recruitment is the number-one factor for any manager," he said. "You can't improve a player by 10%; it's going to be 2% to 3%. If I do anything more [in management] it will be here and these discussions will happen across the next few days."

Dean Smith sounded a more positive note about Leicester, saying: "The raw materials this club has is an elite club. It feels raw now and it hurts and everybody will be devastated but with the infrastructure it has got it can bounce back." Smith took interim charge last month and Leicester are expected to look elsewhere for a permanent manager.



▲ *Sean Dyche said he felt 'no joy' other than keeping Everton up*

Blue heaven reigns at Goodison



Everton players and fans celebrate at the final whistle after a place in the top flight is secured
TOM JENKINS/ THE GUARDIAN

Doucouré joins the list of saviours on 'horrible day'

Everton	**1**
Doucouré 57	
Bournemouth	**0**

Andy Hunter
Goodison Park

Everton extended Abdoulaye Doucouré's contract on Wednesday and the midfielder repaid them by extending their residence in the top flight of English football into a 70th year. On a day of exhausting emotion – "a horrible day", Sean Dyche admitted – the midfielder struck a superb, critical winner against Bournemouth to ensure Everton avoided a first relegation since 1951.

There was a nerve-racking finish where 10 minutes of added time, an injury to Jordan Pickford's hand and the determination of Gary O'Neil's team to prove they were not on the beach made Everton fight to the last for their Premier League status.

When it was over, Doucouré had etched his name alongside Barry Horne, Graham Stuart and Gareth Farrelly as Everton last-day saviours. Dyche had completed the impressive achievement of keeping afloat an imbalanced squad that had spent the majority of the campaign without a proven goalscorer.

And, as the fans and Dyche himself made clear afterwards, the time has come for seismic change at Everton or these desperate scenes will be back again. There are only so many times you can play with fire without getting burned.

The final whistle sparked a pitch invasion that the PA announcer had warned against before and during the game, but it was nothing like the outpouring of joy that greeted last year's escape against Crystal Palace on the penultimate game. This time Goodison reverberated to chants of "Sack the board" as fans again made their feelings clear over the appalling mismanagement of Everton under the ownership of Farhad Moshiri and stewardship of the chairman, Bill Kenwright.

Dyche captured the mood perfectly in his post-match press conference when warning there are no quick fixes at Everton and a change in culture was needed at a club that have not acted big for some considerable time. He has had to contend with an array of issues since replacing Frank Lampard in January and his team selection for the final day was a reflection of Everton's poor recruitment strategy over several years.

A five-man defence for a must-win fixture appeared a negative move from the manager but he had little alternative. With every recognised full-back out injured, Dyche deployed Dwight McNeil and James Garner as makeshift wing-backs. The pair were immense. With no striker available because of Dominic Calvert-Lewin's latest hamstring problem it fell to Demarai Gray to lead the attack. He ran himself into the ground. The paucity of Everton's options was further demonstrated by their bench. Dyche was unable to name a full complement of nine substitutes even with two goalkeepers among them.

Roared on by a passionate crowd the home side enjoyed periods of healthy pressure in the first half



but clearcut openings were limited. There was also little evidence of Bournemouth's well-documented frailty at set pieces as the visitors stood firm against the aerial threat of Yerry Mina, James Tarkowski and the recalled Conor Coady.

Bournemouth were without Neto, their first-choice goalkeeper and captain, after he flew home to Brazil on Saturday as a result of the death of his mother. His teammates wore black armbands in tribute – as did Dyche – and his place went to Mark Travers, the Republic of Ireland international who played in Bournemouth's Carabao Cup and Premier League wins over Everton earlier in the season. Travers enjoyed the upper hand once again in the first half with fine saves to deny Idrissa Gana Gueye and Garner.

O'Neil's team carried a threat whenever they countered, particularly down their right flank where David Brooks and Adam Smith looked to double-up on McNeil. Marcos Senesi was close to putting Bournemouth ahead when, from a corner that Brooks sliced back into the penalty area, his daisy-cutter rolled through the legs of Mina and trickled wide of the far post. Dominic Solanke was also presented with a good chance when Brooks dispossessed Tarkowski just outside the Everton box. Mina spared his defensive colleague with a vital touch on the former Liverpool striker's shot.

With Leicester beating West Ham, Everton had to win to avoid the drop. The precious breakthrough arrived early in the second half when a patient home move ended with Gueye sending a searching cross towards Amadou Onana. Brooks won the aerial challenge but his header dropped to Doucouré, unmarked on the edge of the Bournemouth area, and the midfielder connected with the sweetest half-volley that flew inside Travers' left hand post. There was pandemonium and a deafening sound inside the stadium. Doucouré was almost in tears.

A goal that should have brought relief ignited anxiety instead – in the Everton performance and home crowd. Kieffer Moore, on as a substitute, spread panic through the Everton ranks with his aerial prowess and one header almost set up Solanke. Coady intervened superbly, before Solanke pulled down Pickford and sparked a melee that the striker claimed involved a bite from Mina. TV replays were inconclusive.

"Dom hasn't mentioned that he was bitten," said the Bournemouth manager. "I'm sure if he was it will be looked at and something will be done about it. I'm proud of our performance today. People might have questioned our motivation but we gave everything to win for 100 minutes."

In stoppage time, Pickford produced a vital save to prevent Matías Viña volleying a Moore header into the bottom corner. It got to the stage where Everton were cheering throw-ins in the final seconds. And then they were safe. Just. The time for a huge reset at Goodison is long overdue, but it has to start now.

Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Man City **C**	38	28	5	5	94	33	+61	**89**
Arsenal	38	26	6	6	88	43	+45	**84**
Man Utd	38	23	6	9	58	43	+15	**75**
Newcastle	38	19	14	5	68	33	+35	**71**
Liverpool	38	19	10	9	75	47	+28	**67**
Brighton	38	18	8	12	72	53	+19	**62**
Aston Villa	38	18	7	13	51	46	+5	**61**
Tottenham	38	18	6	14	70	63	+7	**60**
Brentford	38	15	14	9	58	46	+12	**59**
Fulham	38	15	7	16	55	53	+2	**52**
Crystal Palace	38	11	12	15	40	49	-9	**45**
Chelsea	38	11	11	16	38	47	-9	**44**
Wolves	38	11	8	19	31	58	-27	**41**
West Ham	38	11	7	20	42	55	-13	**40**
Bournemouth	38	11	6	21	37	71	-34	**39**
Nottm Forest	38	9	11	18	38	68	-30	**38**
Everton	38	8	12	18	34	57	-23	**36**
Leicester **R**	38	9	7	22	51	68	-17	**34**
Leeds **R**	38	7	10	21	48	78	-30	**31**
Soton **R**	38	6	7	25	36	73	-37	**25**

Everton
5-4-1
Pickford●; Garner, Mina, Coady, Tarkowski, McNeil; Onana, Gueye, Doucouré, Iwobi; Gray (Simms 87)
Subs not used Begovic, Lonergan, Keane, Holgate, Maupay, McAllister, Welch

Bournemouth
4-2-3-1
Travers; Smith● (Anthony 83), Zabarnyi, Senesi●, Kelly; Lerma, Billing; Brooks (Viña 56), Christie (Moore 65), Ouattara; Solanke●
Subs not used Randolph, Stephens, Cook, Mepham, Stacey, Sadi

Referee Stuart Attwell

Analysis

Will Unwin *Goodison Park*



Goodison Park answers Dyche's call to drag players over the line for the second year running

Whether winning a title or securing safety, the moment the historic goal hits the back of the net provides the same feeling. Abdoulaye Doucouré thrashed the ball in here to test the foundations of the antiquated Goodison Park. Every second of the past two seasons of Everton struggle was forgotten, replaced with the glorious ecstasy of being a football fan without worries or concerns.

These days of toil are painful for supporters, who endure every emotion, from despair to unparalleled jubilation. For those decked in blue at Goodison, survival means everything; football is their joy, their time away from what life throws at you and they will be thankful to Doucouré for ensuring their summer is not spent mourning a first relegation since 1951. The players did not let down the fans; every single one put everything into the game for Everton, buoyed by unrelenting support.

Football fans are the backbone of the sport, whether certain club hierarchies think so or not. The TV coverage would have been nothing without the vociferous Goodison Park atmosphere or the panning to those biting nails or looking on with fear. Sometimes football can seem sterilised when witnessed through a shiny flatscreen, missing the nuance of what happens in the stands. But there was no chance the support could be glossed over here.

Hours before kick-off, the streets around Goodison Park were a sea of fans and the air was thick with blue smoke from pyrotechnics. The smell of flares masked the apprehension felt by those who entered to celebrate the warmup, cheer Sean Dyche after a TV interview and roar the entire back catalogue of chants in the hope it would inspire a team without a recognised striker.

Few left their seats before half-time for a pint out of fear of missing a moment that could become a chapter in the Everton history books. Their team, despite planning a defensive style with a back five, had the better of the opening 45 minutes without scoring, which was not much use when Leicester went ahead at home to West Ham to momentarily silence those in blue here.

Supporters are a perceptive bunch. "Everton! Everton! Everton!" reverberated around Goodison Park when 10 minutes of potential agony was added in second-half stoppage time. It galvanised a team that had suffered for the previous 90. In the immediate aftermath of the board going up, Conor Coady made a stunning block on Dominic Solanke, with the meaning lessened by an offside flag, and it was soon followed by a fine Jordan Pickford save from Matías Viña. It felt as if fans and players were working in harmony. Their emotions reflected each other when the final whistle blew: a mixture of glory and relief.

Last season Everton survived by the skin of their teeth, although that four-point gap looks impressive compared with their latest escape. The then manager, Frank Lampard, lauded the fans for "dragging" the team to safety and Dyche called on them to do likewise in the final weeks of this season and they delivered. Tactics and physical wellbeing are paramount to a football manager but they know the impact a fanbase can make.

There have been some thankless jobs at Everton this season but the public address announcer knew his task was up there with being a Dominic Calvert-Lewin replacement. "Supporters are reminded to not enter the pitch – please do not enter the pitch," came the plea, but it was inevitable what would happen when Stuart Attwell, after a glance to the touchline to plot his escape route, blew his prayer-answering whistle.

It felt as if players and fans were working in harmony. Their emotions reflected each other: glory and relief



▲ *Abdoulaye Doucouré fires in the winner for Everton against Bournemouth*
SIMON STACPOOLE/OFFSIDE VIA GETTY IMAGES

Once the celebrations died down and the blue air dissipated, then fans once more showed their desire for more long-term improvement. "Sack the board!" came the protest song, a reminder of the soured relationship between those supposedly steering the ship and the ones operating the lighthouse.

Everton are big on history: Dixie Dean is celebrated in statue form outside the ground, the legendary manager Howard Kendall has a stand named after him and trophies adorn banners displayed by fans. Joe Royle, Peter Reid and Graham Stuart watched on, representing the many legends this club has created.

It was not Dwight McNeil's fault that his crosses had no striker to aim for; it was not James Garner's fault he was playing right-wing back, although he was excellent; nor was it Dyche's fault he had to name two goalkeepers and two potential debutants on a bench still a player short of its full allocation. This was a long time in the making through a small amount of bad luck with injuries but mainly because of poor planning from those above the unfortunate ones toiling on the pitch and in the dugout. There were no signings in January when everyone knew the trouble they were in, making the final months harder for everyone.

"It's a grand old team to play for, and it's a grand old team to support, and if you know your history, it's enough to make your heart go worrrrrrrrr," goes the chant. The players know the glories and the pressure of playing for Everton, and the supporters will never need reminding of the joy of walking through Stanley Park in anticipation of what could happen on any given afternoon. Everton have great history but it is time they need to learn from the more recent chapters or risk repeating it for a third season.

Deal sealed
Pochettino signs up for three years at Chelsea

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Veni vidi vici
Cavendish the conqueror on streets of Rome in fairytale end

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The Guardian
Monday 29 May 2023

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Sport



Bolt from the Blues

Doucouré stunner saves Everton but Dyche warns hard work starts now

▲ *Players and fans react to Abdoulaye Doucouré's 57th-minute strike, which helped Everton avoid a first relegation since 1951*
TOM JENKINS/THE GUARDIAN

Andy Hunter *Goodison Park*
Louise Taylor *Elland Road*
Ben Fisher *King Power Stadium*

Sean Dyche called for major changes at Everton after their latest dramatic escape from relegation and insisted survival was only the first step in the rebuilding work needed for the club to act big again.

Dyche enjoyed "getting the job done" courtesy of Abdoulaye Doucouré's winner against Bournemouth but admitted Everton's predicament in fighting a second successive relegation battle was no great cause for celebration. Everton's win sent Leicester down, and Leeds were also relegated after a 4-1 home defeat by Tottenham.

Dyche said: "I never thought this was an easy fix because it is not, far from it. There is a massive amount of work to be done. The thing I've learned about Everton is the fans have been amazing, they want the club to be in the top end of the market but the club currently is not at the top end.

"It's a big club, make no mistake. Big history, big club, but we are not performing like a big club. We have to find a way of changing that. This is two seasons now. I've played my little part but there is massive amount of change to build to a new dawn, a new future, a bigger future if you like.

"I think the Evertonians, as remarkable as they have been, have to remember that. This is a bigger project than just: 'Oh well, it's all right now.' It's not because there is a lot of work required as this has been going on for two years. I don't have magic dust, I can only make things happen I think are believable."

Dyche said players may have to be sold to raise funds for a rebuild and does not expect a war chest to spend in the transfer market. "There's a chance, I'll find out about that," Dyche said on the possibility of sales. "There's not been any depth, there have been peripheral talks based on ifs, buts and maybes.

"But that will come over the coming weeks when we find out the truth of what we have got, what we can do, what we can't do. First things first but this [staying

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▲ *Leicester's James Maddison and Jamie Vardy (top) and Luke Ayling of Leeds react as their clubs go down**

Final-day results

Arsenal 5 Wolves 0	*P35 →*
Aston Villa 2 Brighton 1	*P39 →*
Brentford 1 Man City 0	*P34 →*
Chelsea 1 Newcastle 1	*P36 →*
Crystal Palace 1 N Forest 1	*P35 →*
Everton 1 Bournemouth 0	*P42 →*
Leeds 1 Tottenham 4	*P38 →*
Leicester 2 West Ham 1	*P40 →*
Man Utd 2 Fulham 1	*P37 →*
Southampton 4 Liverpool 4	*P37 →*

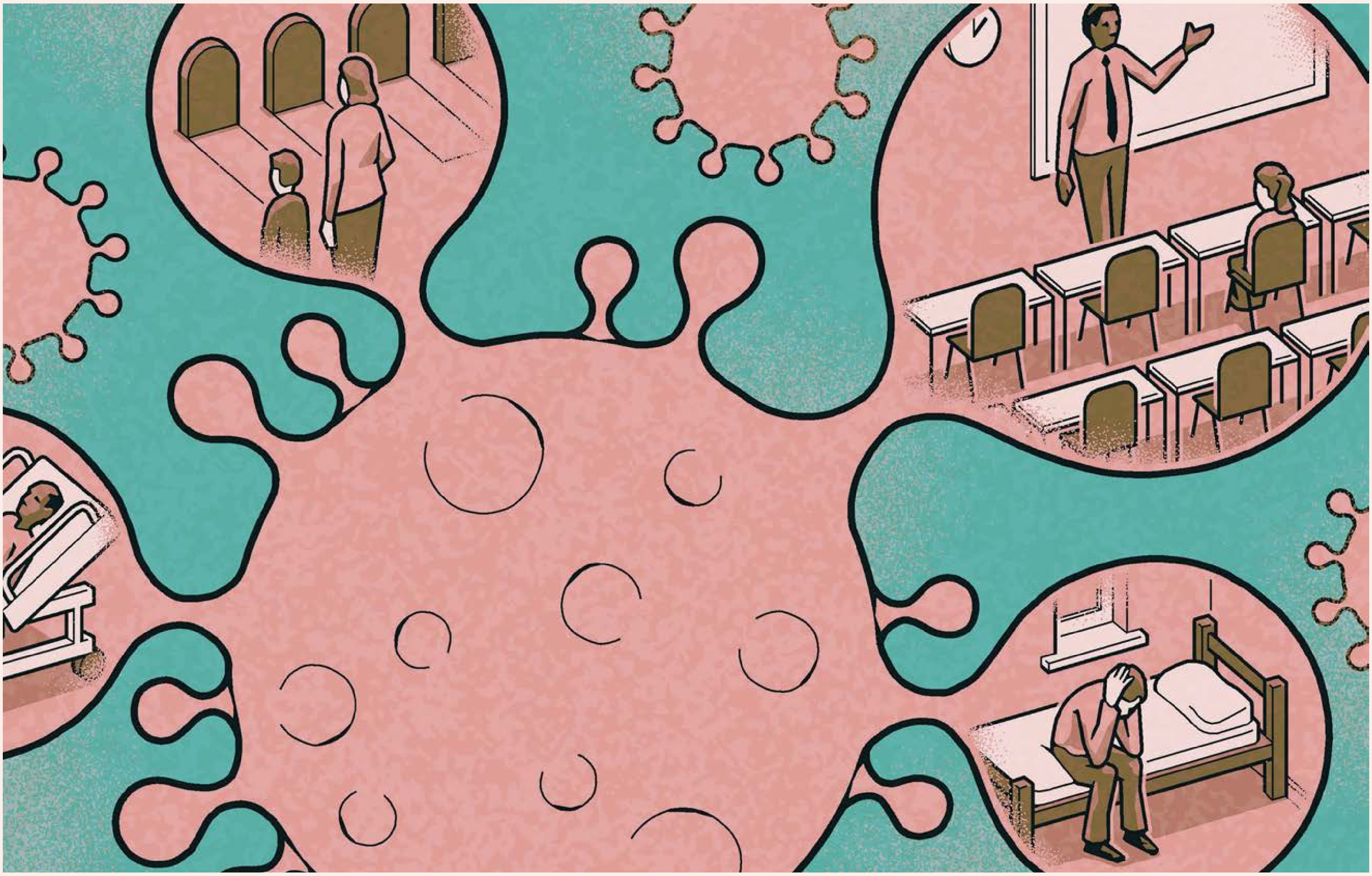
The UK's treatment of overseas students is appalling *Nesrine Malik, page 3*
Why I quit the tyranny of my running apps *Laura Kay, page 4*
Kenneth Anger, influential avant-garde film director *Obituaries, page 6*

G2 Daily pullout life & arts section *Inside*

The Guardian Monday 29 May 2023

Journal

Opinion and ideas



The Tories can't admit that we're still reeling from the pandemic

John Harris



Of all the factions and cliques in and around the Conservative party, none is grimmer than the small gang who think Boris Johnson is the victim of conspiracies involving the fabled "blob", and that the condition of their party - and the country - would be a thousand times better if only he was still in Downing Street.

Even now, a hardcore of Johnson cultists still reportedly think he could, sooner or later, return to the Tory leadership. A few of his other disciples acknowledge that such dreams are probably over for now, but still devotedly try to defend him. The latest nadir was reached last week, after news broke of his referral to the police by civil servants in relation to even more alleged breaches of Covid regulations.

One Johnson ally told the Daily Telegraph that if "the government has tried to report Boris to the police for entirely lawful activity" ("Team Boris" seems to suspect deputy prime minister Oliver Dowden and the paymaster general, Jeremy Quin), Rishi Sunak may face a spate of byelections. Three Tory MPs could trigger them by summarily standing down: the former culture secretary Nadine Dorries, the president of Cop26 Alok Sharma, and Nigel Evans, the MP for Ribble Valley. Just to underline the principled nature of any such move, all are said to be nominated for peerages in Johnson's resignation honours list.

Clearly, these people have never understood, or have chosen not to see, millions of people's deep moral outrage about Partygate. But there are even bigger oversights at the heart of the Johnson cult, which also seem to be evident in politics and the media more widely. In Westminster, news about his alleged lockdown antics inevitably generates a huge amount of noise - but in doing so, it heightens the sense that there are stories about Covid and its legacy that we have still barely heard.

If you know any teachers, one story will probably be very familiar: a chronically overlooked crisis in attendance, behaviour and attainment that shows few signs of going away. The relevant statistics for schools in England are shocking: according to figures released last week, since the autumn of 2019, the number of children absent for more than 50% of school time - colloquially known as "ghost children" - has doubled, to about 125,000. Rates of "persistent absence", defined as missing more than 10% of school, have soared

ILLUSTRATION: MATT KENYON

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The Tories can't admit that we're still reeling from the pandemic

John Harris

← Continued from front

from 13% to 24%, which means that 1.7 million children in England are regularly not in the classroom. These numbers are much worse in places with high levels of poverty and deprivation: Newcastle, Bradford, Middlesbrough.

Teachers I know talk about kids who seem to be neither in school nor entirely out of it, drifting in and out at whim; this highlights what happens when young lives have been subjected to months without any structure. There is a lot of concern about a big uptick in disruptive and challenging behaviour. This year's GCSE outcomes will presumably highlight how these problems affect levels of formal attainment, and whatever the government's attempts at helping kids catch up, the signs are not exactly promising.

Clearly, every absent, underperforming or anxious child is indicative of a level of social damage that seems to be barely registering. In January, an estimated 2 million people in the UK were experiencing what the government calls "self-reported long Covid". In 2022, 2.5 million people said they were not working because of long-term sickness, a rise of about 500,000 since the pandemic began. Between 2021 and 2022, the number of newly awarded disability benefits doubled: about a third of the claims were for mental or behavioural conditions, but among those under 25, that rose to 70%. The most visible political response to all this so far has been the government's tightening of benefit sanctions and Tory calls – linked to the party's angst about immigration – for the benefits system to punitively push people into work, which is a good indication of Conservatism's current ethical bankruptcy.

At the most recent count, there have been 226,622 deaths in the UK with Covid mentioned on the death certificate, which entails a terrifying number of people who have experienced the effects of bereavement, often in the most impossible circumstances.

In that context, carrying on like Dorries et al and desperately defending a former prime minister who made merry while other people's lives fell apart is the symptom of a moral rot. But their behaviour also highlights the continuing absence of our collective Covid experience from the political conversation. Policy responses to what the pandemic has caused remain woefully unsatisfactory, but the vacuum is even more basic than that. Partly because Johnson's period in power left the ruling party in such an awkward position over Covid, we hear almost no attempts to even speak meaningfully to the country about what it is still going through.

There has been at least one impressive exception. In January 2022, Keir Starmer addressed the House of Commons as a limited version of Sue Gray's official report about Partygate was published. The worst of the pandemic, he said, had been "a collective trauma endured by all, enjoyed by none". He continued: "Every family has been marred by what we have been through. And revelations about the prime minister's behaviour have forced us all to rethink and relive those darkest moments."

"Many have been overcome by rage, by grief and even by guilt," he said. "Guilt that because they stuck to the law, they did not see their parents one last time … Guilt that because they did as they were asked, they did not go and visit lonely relatives. But people should not feel guilty. They should feel pride in themselves and their country, because by abiding by those rules they have saved the lives of people they will probably never meet. They have shown the deep public spirit and the love and respect for others that has always characterised this nation at its best."

By his usual standards, that was a moving speech. With the opening of the Covid public inquiry finally looming, he should develop its themes. But he should start with one key insistence: that until we have talked about what Covid has done to us, and finally resolved to do something about it, the UK being anywhere near its best will be a dim and fading fantasy.

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'Comment is free… but facts are sacred' CP Scott

Child sexual abuse inquiry

Abuse survivors deserve more from ministers than vague pledges on new laws

The independent inquiry into child sexual abuse in England and Wales took seven years. Its chair, Prof Alexis Jay, was the fourth person to take up the role after three previous appointees resigned. Some survivors' groups lost confidence in the process and decided not to participate. But 6,000 victims did contribute, along with hundreds of expert witnesses. The report into decades of child sexual abuse, and the role of multiple institutions in enabling it, was published last October.

The response to its 20 recommendations offered last week by the home secretary, Suella Braverman, was inadequate, and justifiably regarded as insulting by many of those who were involved. Interviewed by the BBC, Prof Jay described the measures announced as "vague, unspecific, without a timeline". This inquiry was a monumental task that made huge demands on those involved – above all, the victims and survivors who testified and in many cases engaged closely with difficult questions about how to ensure such abhorrent events are not repeated.

This lack of urgency from ministers is deeply disappointing. So is the gap between the rhetoric of concern and shock at the horrors described, and the substance of the plans produced in response. The prime minister, Rishi Sunak, was not in the Commons chamber for Ms Braverman's announcement. The education secretary, Gillian Keegan, was there but said nothing – even though the government says she is the de facto cabinet minister for children (making the creation of a new role, which was proposed by the inquiry, redundant). In particular, there is anger that further consultation is to be carried out before a compensation scheme is introduced, and before the three-year limit on civil claims is lifted (the three years starts from the age of 18, which means that a person abused as a child currently has until they are 21 to seek damages). The inquiry has spent years examining these issues already, and reviewing schemes in other countries.

There should be no need for delay in the registration of staff working in children's homes, secure training centres and young offender institutions. The use of pain-inducing restraint techniques in children's prisons should end. The dehumanising message sent by ministers' rejection of this recommendation is that, when dealing with this group of children, violence works.

A new legal obligation to report child sexual abuse is among the inquiry's key recommendations. This is regarded as essential by victims and experts, who think institutions will otherwise continue to put their reputations first. Given the track records of councils, churches, and the BBC in the case of Jimmy Savile, the fear is justified. Consultation on the detail of these proposals must not lead to stasis. Similarly, with 103,000 sexual offences against children recorded in England and Wales last year, the expansion of specialist support services for survivors cannot wait.

The shortcomings in the response to the inquiry undermine this policymaking model, whereby ministers commission experts to examine an issue and make recommendations. If these can be ignored or delayed, then what is the point? Campaigners, charities including the NSPCC, and MPs must put pressure on Mr Sunak's government to follow up on its commitments – and validate the colossal effort that went into the inquiry. The report, and the courage of the survivors who contributed to it, should be a spur as well as a resource.

Arts funding

The route to excellence is not a culture divided into the best and the rest

The arts have taken such a battering in the UK over the last decade that they sometimes seem like an old ship holed beneath the waterline, with an orchestra valiantly continuing to play on deck. Nobody really knows what to do apart from bailing out water, firing occasional SOS flares and trying to keep the music going. So it is refreshing when new ideas are introduced.

Earlier this month, Sir Nicholas Hytner, a former head of the publicly funded National Theatre and now founder-director of the unfunded Bridge Theatre, proposed a radical solution. A future government, he wrote, should follow the lead of sport and devolve arts funding into two separate bodies: one would support community initiatives, education and outreach programmes, leaving the Arts Council to focus "on making the best possible art by professional artists for the most diverse audience".

Last week, the chair of Arts Council England, Sir Nicholas Serota, responded. He agreed that culture has been squeezed out of the school curriculum to such an extent that Arts Council funding alone could not compensate for the loss. At £458.5m – less than 0.05% of all government spending – its grant is so woefully inadequate that even doubling it would make barely a dent in the national finances. But he went on to argue that "the interdependence of the cultural world is such that you can no longer draw clear lines between *us* and *them*. To do so is to risk creating barriers to creativity, innovation and hidden talent."

As the architect of the Let's Create strategy – a 10-year plan to "deliver high quality experiences to every one of us" – the Arts Council chief has clearly thought long and hard about this. But his organisation is also under instruction to move the inadequate money it has around to serve the government's flailing levelling up agenda, with serious consequences for many organisations both in and beyond London.

He cited three successes: the Royal Opera working with communities in the Thames estuary; the Royal Shakespeare Company touring Julius Caesar, with choruses of local volunteers; and Turner prize nominee Rory Pilgrim's Heart of Glass collaboration with a community arts organisation in Merseyside. Though his argument is right, these are poor struts for it, being precisely the sort of projects that would fall neatly into the other Sir Nicholas's remit for a slimmed down and rarefied Arts Council.

None challenge the traditional hierarchy of cultural value in the way that, say, the Arts Council's £400,000 recognition of the Carnival Village Trust as one of its national portfolio organisations does, for all that it is based in the capital and its highest profile partner is the Notting Hill carnival.

The argument for keeping the arts under a single umbrella has to be that it is central to their value that they are not like sport. Culture is not about the best and the rest. In today's society, carnival and opera cannot be judged against each other, any more than performance poetry can be considered innately inferior to the work of published poets.

Some child somewhere in the country has the potential to offer a new way of looking at everything in our broken world: nurture, recognition and remuneration have equally important roles to play in enabling their excellence to emerge, for the benefit of everyone. If we don't invest, we will end up very poor indeed.



Students on graduation day at Aberystwyth University
PHOTOGRAPH: ALAMY

Dear overseas students: the UK needs you, but it doesn't want you

Nesrine Malik



Given how much the subject of immigration dominates British political life, it is remarkable how little people know about what it actually takes to come to this country. Immigrants are spoken of as if they simply purchase a ticket and stroll in, against the wishes and efforts of the government. Perhaps there should be some mandatory course that everyone has to pass - a sort of Life in the UK test in reverse - in which citizens learn what it's really like. For now, let me reassure you: the UK is very much in control of its borders.

As a veteran of visa applications, I can tell you the average visa process is as probing, extensive and invasive as it gets. But this doesn't stop the Home Office regularly introducing a new requirement and presenting it to the public as the supposed closing of a loophole, bringing us closer to whatever it is that counts as an acceptable level of net migration. Last week, it was international students who felt the heat.

From next year, with a few exceptions, overseas students will be barred from bringing dependants with them when they come to study in the UK. Last year, almost 500,000 visas were issued to international students - a category that now includes both EU and non-EU, though the vast majority are the latter - to study here. Along with them came just over 135,000 immediate family members - a figure that the government sees as a nice, meaty number to hack at. What they don't see are women with small children, families without child-supporting networks back home and students who - reasonably - would not like to be separated from their partners for a long time. It is a mark of the government's inability to be honest about the country's need for immigrants that it is scrambling around for some numbers to cut, and in so doing, targeting a cohort of people that brings in huge amounts of revenue, pay into the NHS, and prove in advance that they will not be a "burden" on the state.

But we don't hear about that, do we? Or about how high the hurdles for entry and settlement already are. Before even being allowed into the UK, international students must demonstrate that they have a place at an accredited British academic institution and have enough funds to cover their course and living expenses. Dependants have to be able to prove that they have the funds to sustain themselves - £845 a month for up to nine months for courses in London or £680 a month for courses outside London.

> **They are the 'ideal migrant' by the government's standards - putting into the system then having the good sense to clear off afterwards**

All applicants, students and their dependants pay an NHS surcharge; a master's student with a partner and one child needs to pay £1,410 in advance of setting foot in the UK. They will also continue paying this surcharge every year if they find work, and so will effectively be taxed twice to use the health service. Dependants are defined as partners and any children under 18. Not, as one talking head from Conservative Home said on the BBC last week, "their grandmas".

That sort of poorly informed discourse has helped turn what is a very good news story for the country - that the UK is becoming a thriving global hub of revenue-generating international students - into a bad one about unacceptably high migration numbers. The reality is that international students, particularly non-EU ones, are playing a massive role in financing the country's higher education system while being a net contributor to the economy. Research from 2021 shows that just 10 non-EU students studying in the UK will generate up to £1m of economic impact during their studies in terms of fees, consumer spending and job creation - and that's *after* their use of public services has been accounted for.

Non-EU students' fees made up 17% of universities' income between 2020 and 2021, in effect, cross-subsidising the education of domestic students. The fees they pay are astonishingly high, averaging £22,000 a year. So high, and scandalously divorced from the actual cost of delivery are these fees, that the director of Soas University of London recently said such students were being exploited in a "morally problematic" higher education system that has become reliant on overseas students. That system would "collapse", he said, if just China and India were to "close the taps".

Well, Suella Braverman is here to help, with a policy that will punish and turn away what is, by government standards, the ideal migrant - someone who only puts into the system, meets strict standards of entry and residence, and has the good sense to clear off afterwards. It's tempting to ascribe this poor judgment to Braverman herself, but let's not forget that the home secretary is simply doing what British politicians have done for years, particularly since David Cameron called for net migration to be reduced to "tens of thousands" and the introduction of the hostile environment: making the lives of foreigners as miserable, expensive and lonely as possible. Labour, for its part, has said it won't oppose the measure.

The tragedy is that so much of what Brexit was supposedly about - pivoting towards the Commonwealth and the rest of the world; investing in "world-beating" homegrown industries - is personified in the international student. They have a cultural affinity with the UK, recognise the prestige of degrees from its universities and the value of being here to their careers. But all the government can see in them is a useful number to cull - economic units to be stripped of relationships, choice and humanity.

*

Windrush 75 years on - the making of multicultural Britain
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Why I quit the tyranny of my running apps

Laura Kay

During the early months of 2018, I was training for the London Marathon – the first and only marathon I'll ever run in my life. I had treated myself to an expensive fitness watch that tracked my time, pace, splits – every piece of information I could ever wish to know about what I had just endured.

At the end of my final training run – a gruelling 21 miles (34km) during which I got lost on Wandsworth Common and afterwards had a lovely little cry on the bus back – I threw myself down on the floor the moment I got home, only to see my watch had failed me. Twenty-one miles briefly flashed on the screen before it went blank and disappeared for ever.

Instead of feeling proud of myself for the phenomenal achievement of running for what I believe in athletics is known as "fucking ages", I screamed in anguish because there was absolutely no record of it. My aching muscles, my salt-crusted lips that tasted of sweat and Jelly Babies, the increasingly disgusting blisters on my feet – it all meant nothing to me. I may as well not have done it.

That tragic image of me sobbing while choking down a conciliatory Cornetto on my living room floor pretty much sums up my relationship with exercise-tracking technology. I'd like to say at this point that I know running apps are brilliant for some people. It can be a total joy to watch your stats change as you gradually get stronger and faster. I once got a kick out of it too, but at some point it became a stick I used to punish myself. I would watch my pace (slow, always slow), compare it with other people's, admonish myself for not doing that extra mile, or for not doing it 30 seconds faster like I had last time. I would run for five miles, get home and feel disappointed in myself for not doing six.

I never really recognised exercise tracking as a problem, because I was so used to tracking and logging my life. Things I have tracked include calories, my weight, my sleep, steps, my speed, my heart rate. It seemed to me that tracking was the route to self-improvement, and the point was to improve, wasn't it? The point was to be better.

In the past year, the concept of "being better" has taken on a different meaning for me. My mental health took a spectacular nosedive, and things that were once easy and I was very good at, such as brushing my teeth, washing my clothes and going outside, became unimaginably difficult. Being better stopped meaning getting faster, stronger, leaner, thinner, more impressive. It meant taking care of myself in the most basic sense, feeling some joy in a day, remembering to take my medication, remembering that everything is temporary.

Once I started being better, I reflected on what about my life made me happy and what did not; on when I felt peaceful and when I did not. And so I stopped tracking my runs. I simply deleted years' worth of data that was once very important to me and now meant nothing: years of personal bests and personal worsts and targets and goals and achievements and failures. Once it was gone, what was left was me and a pair of running shoes and miles of trying to clear the fog in my brain.

What has become very clear to me since I quit tracking my runs is that I genuinely love doing them. I run around my local park with a silly little smile on my face, I love it so much. But I do not love running quickly. I hate it, in fact. I do not love targets. I do not like races. I do not want to be pushed to be faster by other people or to win a medal. I am sorry to say to all the enthusiasts that I do not even like parkrun. I like to run alone accompanied by a playlist that will never see the light of day.

Things I notice about my runs now include: how my legs feel, and how my mind feels after I have been running (clear and focused). I notice how many flies are in my mouth, dogs, the smell of the cow parsley along the canal and the sunshine (OK, wind and rain) on my face. I notice with interest how some days, a 20-minute jog around the park feels like a marathon, and how on others I want to go for miles and miles, my legs springy and filled with what feels like boundless energy. I notice how neither one is better or worse than the other, how the guilt has disappeared. I am better. Or sometimes I am worse. But either way, I'm slowly plodding along, and that's good enough.

*
Why I quit *is an Opinion series in which writers talk about something they have swept from their lives, for better or worse*

Laura Kay *is a journalist and novelist*

Letters

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Established 1906

Country diary
Crumlin Glen, County Antrim

The steep sides of the ravine amplify the dawn chorus above the rush of the Crumlin River, which tumbles over black basalt from its source on Divis Mountain to its mouth at Lough Neagh. I look up at the first hesitant trills of a blackcap. His stutter climbs to a few clear notes, then babbles to a halt, as if the bird were suddenly shy of the liquid beauty of his own song.

I stop to listen for more. At first there's only silence - then another outburst. It could be the same bird, gaining confidence; or it might be his neighbour, anxious to remind him of their territorial boundary. Either way, the voice is directly along this riverside path. I go on.

Sylvia atricapilla, the species' Latin name, is a more evocative appellation than the rather deadpan "blackcap". While *atricapilla* - referring to the male's black crown - means "black-haired", *Sylvia* means "woodland sprite". There is definitely an impish quality to the bird's movements as his chuckling song teases me through sunlit foliage. I pass a weir, a relic of the days when the river powered mills. Now that they are gone, the glen has rewilded into this liminal refuge of deciduous woodland. My gaze scans in vain for the blackcap. As I get closer, he falls quiet again. I wait. He resumes just a little further ahead.

That song. It dances like sunlight through a wind-stirred canopy and froths like a stream in spate. Its musicality reflects that it is largely adapted for transmission in an environment full of obstacles - pure tones are less distorted when they bounce off leaf and bark. The opening bars (known as the warble part) may sound as if a blackcap is just clearing his throat for the gorgeous second half (the whistle part). However, there is meaning attached to both parts of the song.

Like a postcode, the pattern of notes in the whistle part is shared between a bird and its neighbours. The less audible warble notes are more idiosyncratic. They suggest more private information, possibly including a blackcap's identity. I stare blindly up into the leaves. Could I be eavesdropping on a bird that is whispering his own name?

Mary Montague

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Immigrants deserve to be valued, not vilified

The excellent article by Gaby Hinsliff (UK immigration figures ought to be a cause for celebration, 26 May) and your editorial (Movement of peoples is a global reality. The public gets it but the Tories don't, 26 May) together encapsulate the necessary reframing of the tired numbers-driven immigration debate that has gone on unchallenged for decades.

The bipartisan political and media-amplified consensus that immigration is a problem needing to be controlled should be robustly challenged as these articles have done - as has Sadiq Khan by recently saying London needs more, not less, immigration.

Meanwhile, Keir Starmer and Yvette Cooper have been lamely agreeing that net migration numbers are too high. The failure to challenge this fundamentally nationalistic and racist rhetoric fuelled the Brexit vote, Britain's biggest postwar failure. To avoid further such defeats, Labour must have the courage to defy the xenophobic rightwing press and break the consensus. They must champion the benefits of immigration and expose the cynical hypocrisy of Tories realistically encouraging overseas visas while ideologically decrying their numbers. This shift would in fact reflect the changing grain of popular opinion.

Gideon Ben-Tovim
University of Liverpool

● The sound and fury over immigration is utterly wretched. I am an immigrant. I came here to study more than 20 years ago, and stayed on - to work, study some more, and then with settled status as the spouse of a British citizen. The vitriol over immigration makes me feel more unwelcome now than at any time since I moved here. I wonder if those who recently took care of me as I had surgery feel the same way? Almost every step of my care involved people who I think moved here as adults. I could not have asked for more professional care. And this is the thanks those professionals get: the "there are too many of you lot clogging up the system" venom, when in reality they are the ones propping up the whole edifice.

Priyanjali Malik
London

● Three cheers for Aditya Chakrabortty's timely article on the positive value of immigration (The right now wants to stop anyone coming to Britain at all, 25 May). I like to list how immigrants or the children (and now possibly grandchildren) of immigrants enable and enhance my life and lifestyle. They deliver my morning paper (the Guardian, of course); drill, fill and maintain what's left of my teeth; dispense my prescriptions; clean my car; run my favourite restaurant; provide about half of my NHS treatment, the vicar and about two-thirds of the choir at the church I attend; my regular hiking companion; some thoughtful articles in the Guardian, and much more. Grateful thanks to them all.

Peter Wrigley
Birstall, West Yorkshire

● It is not just my family name that makes me favour immigration; living in Cambridge proves how valuable it can be. In a lecture at Darwin College in March 2018, Venkatraman Ramakrishnan described the ancestry of the directors of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge.

The first four directors were immigrants. The laboratory staff have won 16 Nobel prizes, and more than half the winners were immigrants.

It is now hard for companies to pay immigrants enough to get them here. If "taking all our houses" is a threat, let us see a lot more of it.

Laurie van Someren
Cambridge

● I was going through my change when I came upon a 50p piece from the year 2020. The coin was inscribed with the message "Diversity built Britain". So much has changed in the last three years.

Peter Dewar
London

I'm hosting a refugee as a way to say thank you

I completely agree with the reader who has welcomed refugee families from several countries into their home since 1973 (Letters, 26 May).

I am a Ugandan refugee who arrived in England in August 1972. I was only nine years old at the time and my family was welcomed into a home of a farmer close to where I live today.

When the war started in Ukraine I decided to welcome a refugee from the country as a way of paying back and thanking the family who hosted my family in 1972.

He has been with me for just over 12 months now and has enriched my life with good conversation and an excuse to visit local areas I've never been to over the last five decades.

He found a full-time job within two months of arriving. At the beginning, his English language skills were limited, but with support from his work colleagues and my friends, his English has improved significantly - without any formal language lessons. Within a year his life has changed considerably. Only the other day he said that he was beginning to forget some Russian words.

My experience of completing his visa application enabled me to advise other UK families seeking to host Ukrainian refugees. I have supported about 15 Ukrainian refugees to come to the UK over the last year. There are still many Ukrainian individuals and families seeking hosts in the UK. If you are able to support an individual or family, please volunteer. Your local authority will be able to help you with the hosting process.

Paresh Motla
Thame, Oxfordshire

A valuable lesson from Georgia on housing

Regarding the letter on how the government's housing plan will put refugees' lives at risk (25 May), I am the chair of trustees of the charity Refugees Welcome, Cheshire East. Earlier this month, I visited the Tserovani refugee settlement in Georgia. The settlement of about 2,000 homes was built in 2008 to house refugees from South Ossetia made homeless by the conflict between the Russian Federation and Georgia. It took around three months to build the small but sound houses for the victims.

People have extended the homes and created gardens around them. Transport infrastructure is part of the plan so that people can go to work in nearby towns. What's important is that they feel safe.

Jobs have been created in the settlement, such as a social enterprise jewellery workshop, which we were fortunate enough to attend. Desperate people have dignity and are able to contribute to the economy of their new area.

What a shame it is that our government is unable to understand and embrace the needs of refugees who come to the UK. How wonderful it would be if suitable homes for refugees and other displaced people could be built, rather than endless estates of four-bedroom houses.

Nicky Campbell
Macclesfield, Cheshire

Corrections and clarifications

● **An article reported that the 2023 Eurovision grand final "was the most watched … in the competition's history", according to the BBC. The corporation later clarified that its records date back only to 2002, when its methodology for measuring viewers changed. For context, several Eurovision finals in the 1970s are said to have garnered more than 20 million viewers, compared with a peak of 11 million in 2023 (Liverpool declared the winner after hosting 'brash, bonkers' Eurovision, 15 May, p3).**

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Girlguiding gave me skills for life

Hurrah to Jan Royall for highlighting the impact of Girlguiding on her career (Girlguiding transformed my life, says Labour peer, 27 May). Like her, I was a keen Brownie and Girlguide in the 1960s and early 70s. It gave me so much confidence and some outstanding experiences. I mixed with people from different backgrounds, learned how to cope in adversity and believed anything was possible, provided you had the right kit. To this day, I adhere to the mantra to "be prepared".

Judith Barton
Claygate, Surrey

● Following an unfortunate incident caused by my spouse, my recipe for the proportions of Marmite and marmalade on buttered toast (Letters, 27 May) is: Marmalade 100%, Marmite 0%.

Carolyn Tattam
Chinley, Derbyshire

● A weird taste combination that I liked as a schoolboy in the 1950s was baked beans on toast. The beans were eaten first, followed by the soggy, tomatoey toast laden with marmalade.

Jim Andrew
Maidstone, Kent

● In case anyone has difficulty accessing the oxygen supply in the cockpit of a Meteor jet (Letters, 25 May), I can suggest a more readily available cure for a hangover. Tried and tested by countless Scots over the years, there is no substitute for a large glass or two of Irn-Bru.

Mike Pender
Cardiff

● Perhaps Rishi Sunak took a helicopter to Manchester and Yorkshire because it worked out cheaper than the train (Report, 27 May).

Mick Geraghty
Narrowboat Oleanna, Leeds-Liverpool Canal



Kenneth Anger

Influential avant-garde film director and author of the salacious book Hollywood Babylon

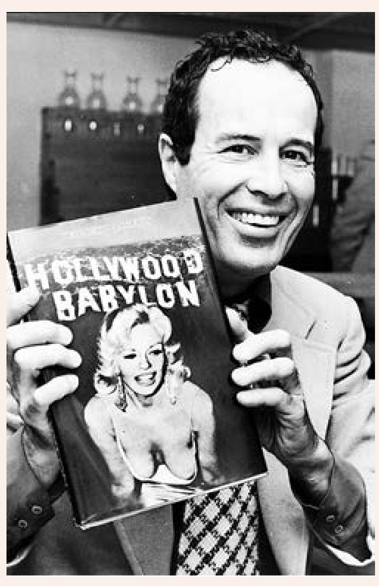
Lucifer played an important part in the life of the avant-garde film director and author Kenneth Anger, who has died aged 96. From his late teens he was attracted by the practices and philosophies of the occultist guru Aleister Crowley, of whom he became a passionate disciple.

Like Crowley, Anger, who was one of the first openly gay film-makers in the US, lived by the philosophy of Thelema, a set of beliefs based on the rule "Do what thou wilt", which included "sex magick". "Lucifer has appeared in all my films," Anger once explained. "Sometimes he's not labelled as such but there's always a figure or a moment in my films to communicate what I call my 'Lucifer moment'."

At least two of his films of what became the Magick Lantern Cycle - nine shorts made between 1947 and 1972 - testify to this: Invocation of My Demon Brother (1969) and Lucifer Rising (1972). Anger described the former 11-minute short as "the shadowing forth of our lord Lucifer as the powers of darkness gather at a midnight mass". A homage to Crowley, it rejects narrative, using dynamic montage to Mick Jagger's Moog synthesiser soundtrack.

Anger himself plays a magus, while the musician Bobby Beausoleil is Lucifer, who appears at the climax. In between are shots of an occult ritual, a Rolling Stones concert and GIs leaping from helicopters in Vietnam. Lucifer Rising contains startling free-association imagery such as flying saucers hovering over the temple of Luxor. Anger again plays a magus who invokes Lucifer, celebrating his rebirth with a birthday cake with Lucifer Mark VI written in pink icing. The eclectic cast includes Marianne Faithfull, the director Donald Cammell, and Leslie Huggins, a young Middlesbrough steel worker, in the title role.

An earlier version of the film, shot in 1966, was stolen and buried in the Mojave desert by Beausoleil, a member of the Charles Manson Family who is currently serving a life sentence for murder.



Anger on the set of his most famous film Scorpio Rising, 1963, which juxtaposed images of a biker-boys orgy with clips from Cecil B DeMille's King of Kings. Right, with a copy of Hollywood Babylon, first published in France in 1959
EVERETT/ALAMY; FAIRFAX MEDIA/GETTY

> **It was full of scandalous tales of the private lives of stars such as James Dean and Lucille Ball**

Anger's most famous film, Scorpio Rising (1963), was highly influential in US underground cinema and, with its leather biker-boys orgy juxtaposed with clips from Cecil B DeMille's King of Kings (1927) and Marlon Brando's biker movie The Wild One (1953), what would later be called "queer cinema". It also made use of Nazi symbolism, occultism and rock songs on the soundtrack.

One of the first film-makers to use rock music instead of a traditional score for his films, Anger's use of jump cuts and sound were a huge influence on music videos and commercials. The experimental film-maker Stan Brakhage once likened watching an Anger film to reading an Ezra Pound canto on the news ticker in Times Square.

With his diabolic philosophy and surname, one would have thought that Anger would be a frightening presence. Far from it. Having met him a few times, I found him a charming man, full of witty anecdotes, whose favourite film was Robert Siodmak's camp classic Cobra Woman (1944), and who had a love for early Mickey Mouse films, expressed through his short film Mouse Heaven (2004), featuring various vintage Mickey Mouse toys.

He was a pussycat, albeit one with claws ready to strike when necessary. His salacious book Hollywood Babylon, first published in France in 1959, was full of scandalous tales of the private lives of stars such as Lucille Ball and James Dean, and was banned immediately on its US release 10 years later. It finally made it through the lawyers in 1975, as did a 1984 sequel. In both, the seamiest recesses of Hollywood were mitigated by Anger's black humour.

Born Kenneth Anglemyer, in Santa Monica, California, he was the son of Wilbur, an electrical engineer, and his wife, Lillian (nee Coler), a seamstress. He grew up in Beverly Hills and attended the Maurice Kosloff dancing school in Hollywood. Almost as much of a mythomaniac as a necromancer, Anger later claimed that he had appeared, aged eight, as the Changeling Prince in the all-star Warner Brothers film of A Midsummer Night's Dream (1935), although the cast list shows that a Sheila Brown played the role.

He also said that he had made five silent short 16mm films before he had reached the age of 18, although there is evidence of only one, The Nest (1943), featuring a 17-year-old John Derek (billed under his real name of Derek Delevan Harris).

However, Anger did make an impact with Fireworks (1947), the first of the Magick Lantern Cycle and an oneiric and onanistic movie heavily influenced by Jean Cocteau's first film, The Blood of a Poet (1930). Anger himself played a bare-chested young man who

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dreams of meeting a muscular seaman in a bar before a gang of sailors appear to gang-rape him. It ends with the young man finding himself back in bed beside the sailor. Among the memorable surreal sequences are when Anger is being beaten up and his nose starts to bleed profusely, when milk is poured over him in slow motion, and when a phallic roman candle explodes through the flies of a sailor's trousers.

Anger sent Fireworks to the Festival du Film Maudit in Biarritz, and Cocteau, who was on the jury, gave it a prize. Because the film was prohibited from public showing in the US, in 1950 Anger went to live in France, where he met Cocteau, Jean Genet and Colette. He also met Henri Langlois, the founder of the Cinémathèque Française, who offered him an unpaid job as his assistant. It was with the help of Langlois that Anger was able to make Rabbit's Moon (begun in 1950, completed in 1971), a short Pierrotesque piece, on 35mm.

Anger worked at the Cinémathèque from 1950 to 1962, during which time he made Eaux d'Artifice (1953) – in the gardens of the Villa d'Este near Rome, and Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome (1954), both ciné-poems demonstrating his brilliance as an editor, derived from his study of, and admiration for, the films of Sergei Eisenstein.

Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome, which he shot on a visit home to Los Angeles, went through several incarnations. The first had a soundtrack by Harry Partch, the second used Leoš Janáček's Glagolitic Mass to better effect. In 1966, following his permanent return to the US, Anger added an opening reading of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's Kubla Khan accompanied by stills of Crowley and talismanic symbols, creating what became known as the Sacred Mushroom edition. After Lucifer Rising he made nothing much of substance, virtually living on his reputation and on royalties from Hollywood Babylon. He told the Guardian in 2010 that a third book was written, but he was unable to release it due to a "whole section on Tom Cruise and the Scientologists".

However, as his influence on the music video, and in editing in commercial films, began to be fully recognised, from 2000 he returned to filming, making a series of shorts including Mouse Heaven and Elliott's Suicide (2007), about his friend the singer-songwriter Elliott Smith. From 2009 he was represented by Sprüth Magers gallery, with exhibitions in Berlin and London.

Ronald Bergan

Kenneth Anger (Kenneth Wilbur Anglemyer), film director and author, born 3 February 1927; died 11 May 2023

Ronald Bergan died in 2020

Other lives



Anne Sanderson

Teacher, adviser and Ofsted inspector who wrote several books about early years education

My mother-in-law, Anne Sanderson, who has died aged 85, was an educationist in South Yorkshire and beyond who fought fiercely for the rights of all children, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds, to enjoy top-class schooling.

Anne had a successful career in the late 1970s as a deputy head and headteacher at schools in Sheffield. She was a senior lecturer in primary education at Sheffield Polytechnic (now Sheffield Hallam University) from 1984 to 1988, and wrote several well-received books about early years teaching, including a series called Models for Writing (with Chris Buckton), before becoming senior adviser to Barnsley schools, specialising in language development and English.

Later, she was invited to help improve teaching standards in Saudi Arabia, Hungary and Hong Kong.

As a long-serving Ofsted inspector she also trained others to become inspectors, but her overriding purpose was to help every child achieve his or her potential. Once, she was asked to visit a pupil who had become electively mute. While Anne waited to talk to the teacher she noticed a girl at an easel, painting away. The pair had a happy, animated conversation. Then, when the teacher was free, Anne asked her to point out the electively mute child. It was the same girl.

Her belief in the importance of education was forged early on in her life. She was born in Barnsley, the elder daughter of Colin Wildsmith and Amelia (nee Atkinson). Her mother died when she was three and her sister Janet one. Their father, a miner, felt unable to raise them so they were brought up in the village of Ward Green by their mother's sister, Auntie Dinah, sleeping three to a bed.

Anne passed her 11-plus exam, but the school did not let the family know the result, assuming that they would not be able to afford the uniform, and did not want to embarrass them. Auntie Dinah was furious. She took extra work cleaning Barnsley bus station's toilets, partly to ensure that Anne could go to grammar school at Barnsley girls' high school and fulfil her obvious potential.

She went on to take a higher education certificate at Sheffield University (1970), a BA in education, language development and psychology at the Open University (1977) and an MA in English language and linguistics at Sheffield University (1983).

Anne met Bob Sanderson at a steelworks dance in Chapeltown. They were married in 1958 and remained keen rock'n'roll jive dancers for the rest of their lives.

She is survived by Bob, their daughters, Jackie and (my wife) Jane, her grandchildren, and Janet.

Brian Viner

Margaret Bowman

British-born academic and writer of books on Australian society, local government and communities

My mother, Margaret Bowman, who has died aged 103, was a distinguished academic and writer in Australia. She wrote and edited many books about local government and communities, and is best known for Reformers: Shaping Australian Society from the 60s to the 80s, co-written with the journalist Michelle Grattan.

Born in Leeds, the youngest of two daughters of Flora (nee Johnson) and Herbert Stanton, a teacher, Margaret went to Leeds girls' high school, then studied domestic science and trained as a teacher at the Yorkshire Training College of Housecraft. While teaching domestic science at Oxford high school, she met John Bowman



at a political meeting in the city, where he was undertaking a DPhil. They were married in 1944.

In 1959, John was appointed chair of a department at Melbourne University, and the family moved from Leeds to Australia. Margaret decided the best way to learn about her new country was as a student. She gained first-class honours in political science and an MA in art history from Melbourne University, then, in the late 1960s, became lecturer in politics at Monash University, also in Melbourne, specialising in urban politics, the subject of her first PhD.

In the mid-70s, when my father's ill heath led to his early retirement, my parents moved to Creswick, near Ballarat, and, after a period of commuting to Monash, Margaret took a job as principal lecturer at Ballarat College of Advanced Education (c1978-86). In 2011, she was awarded the Order of Australia medal for services to local government.

After retirement Margaret taught English to Vietnamese refugees, studied French and completed a second PhD, a study of artistic institutions established by Jean-Baptiste Colbert in 17th-century France. Her love of France was the result of a 1936 school exchange to Lille. Her lifelong friendship with Gisele Leblanc, whose family hosted Margaret on the trip, involved visits to the country until she was in her late 80s.

Margaret joined the Melbourne Athenaeum Library in her 80s, and wrote articles about the organisation's early development. In 2011, she was awarded an honorary State Library of Victoria creative fellowship to study the life and art of George Alexander Gilbert, one of the Athenaeum's early secretaries, resulting in her book Cultured Colonists (2014).

In 2021, in an interview for the 100 Project, a video series on centenarians, Margaret stressed the importance of older people being computer literate.

John died in 2006. Margaret is survived by six children, Sara, Helen, Katy, Dina, David and me – a daughter, Mary, died in infancy and a son, Andrew, died in 2017 – 17 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Anna Bowman



Joe Taylor

Sought-after cameraman who shot epic sequences of the lethal migration routes from Africa to Europe

My brother Joe Taylor, who has died aged 58 of cancer, worked as a film and TV documentary cameraman for more than 30 years, including for the BBC's Panorama and The South Bank Show on Sky Arts.

Joe left Thurston upper school in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, at 16 with the sole ambition to be a cameraman. Aged 18, he went to London, doggedly pursuing his path, writing countless letters and knocking on unreceptive doors. Finally, in 1986, he was taken up by Crystal Film and Video in Harlesden, north-west London, where he quickly progressed from camera assistant to staff cameraman.

In the late 1990s, Joe went freelance and ventured on a career that took him to every corner of the globe, feeding his lively mind and passion for history. He became one of the most sought-after documentary and current affairs cameramen of his generation, collaborating frequently with the presenter and writer Paul Kenyon, and the producer and director Howard Bradburn, making beautifully shot, powerful and moving documentaries. He worked for Panorama from 2003 to 2020.

In 2009, Joe filmed epic sequences of the lethal migration route from Africa to Europe. The film, Migrants, Go Home!, won a Royal Television Society award. Colleagues remember that no matter how difficult and risky the situation, Joe was always a delight to work with, delivering wonderful footage with grace and humour.

Also for Panorama, Joe filmed memorable, poignant shots for Tsunami: The Survivors' Stories, about the aftermath of the tsunami in Fukushima, in 2011. Cool in the face of danger, Joe was also kind – Kenyon said he was the only cameraman he knew who would take gifts to disaster zones.

Always in demand, he also worked on BBC One's Who Do You Think You Are? (2008-18), Channel 4's Dispatches (2010-20) and The South Bank Show (2016-18), and was director of photography on The Amazing Grace, for which he received the best cinematography award in the African Movie Academy Awards 2007.

The youngest of four children, Joe was born in Bury St Edmunds, to Muriel (nee Griffin), an auxiliary nurse, and Tom Taylor, an artist. Joe and his future wife, Lucy Walker, grew up as children together, married in 1995, and their son, Milo, was born in 1997.

Joe lamented the loss of his future with Lucy and Milo. But, in spite of it all, he celebrated his amazing life and the people he loved. Brave, funny and empathic, he was great company and a fine professional.

Joe is survived by Lucy, Milo, and by our sister, Rebecca, and me. Another brother, Ben, died in 2001.

Matthew Taylor

Birthdays

Annette Bening, actor, 65; **Lord (Michael) Berkeley of Knighton**, composer and broadcaster, 75; **Melanie Brown**, singer, 48; **Laverne Cox**, actor and trans activist, 51; **The Right Rev Dr Steven Croft**, bishop of Oxford, 66; **Melissa Etheridge**, singer, 62; **Rupert Everett**, actor and writer, 64; **Mike Freer**, Conservative MP and justice minister, 63; **Noel Gallagher**, musician, 56; **Prof Peter Higgs**, theoretical physicist, 94; **Prof Sir Alan Langlands**, former vice-chancellor, Leeds University, 71; **Sir Julian Le Grand**, professor of social policy, London School of Economics, 78; **Moazzam Malik**, diplomat, 56; **Sarah Millican**, comedian, 48; **Jessica Morden**, Labour MP, 55; **Nanette Newman**, actor and writer, 89; **Agnes Oaks**, ballerina, 53; **Helen Phillips**, former chair to the Legal Services Board, 57; **Martin Pipe**, racehorse trainer, 78; **Francis Rossi**, singer and guitarist, 74; **Dame Barbara Woodward**, diplomat, 62.

Puzzles

Saturday's solutions

Sandwich sudoku

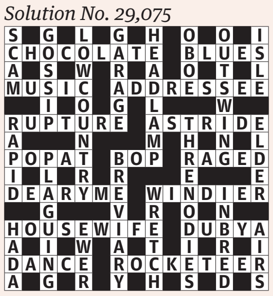
7	2	9	3	4	6	8	1	5	21
8	4	3	5	1	7	2	9	6	9
1	6	5	2	8	9	7	3	4	21
9	5	7	8	6	1	4	2	3	26
3	8	4	9	5	2	6	7	1	20
6	1	2	4	7	3	9	5	8	16
2	3	8	6	9	5	1	4	7	5
4	9	1	7	3	8	5	6	2	0
5	7	6	1	2	4	3	8	9	17
0	3	29	17	26	0	0	0	17	

Killer Sudoku 867

9	1	4	2	5	6	8	7	3
6	2	5	3	8	7	9	1	4
3	7	8	9	1	4	5	6	2
5	8	2	6	3	1	7	4	9
4	9	3	5	7	2	6	8	1
1	6	7	8	4	9	3	2	5
8	5	6	4	2	3	1	9	7
7	4	9	1	6	5	2	3	8
2	3	1	7	9	8	4	5	6

Cryptic crossword

Solution No. 29,075



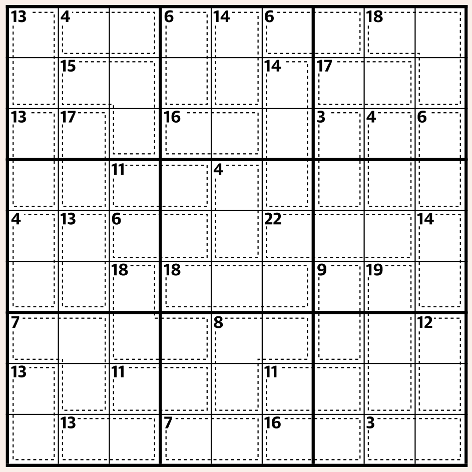
This week's winners of The Language Lover's Puzzle Book are: Helen Childs, Wintershill, Southampton; Cherry Ledlie, Edinburgh; David Glossop, Holme Hall; Rev A Jones, Wallasey; Ann Radcliffe, Buxton.

Please allow 28 days for delivery

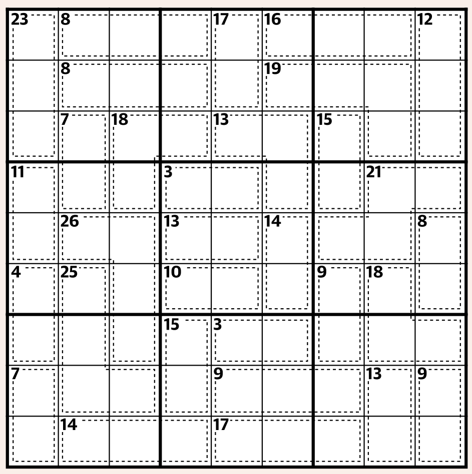
Killer sudoku

Easy

The normal rules of sudoku apply: fill each row, column and 3x3 box with all the numbers from 1 to 9. In addition, the digits in each inner shape (marked by dots) must add up to the number in the top corner of that box. No digit can be repeated within an inner shape.

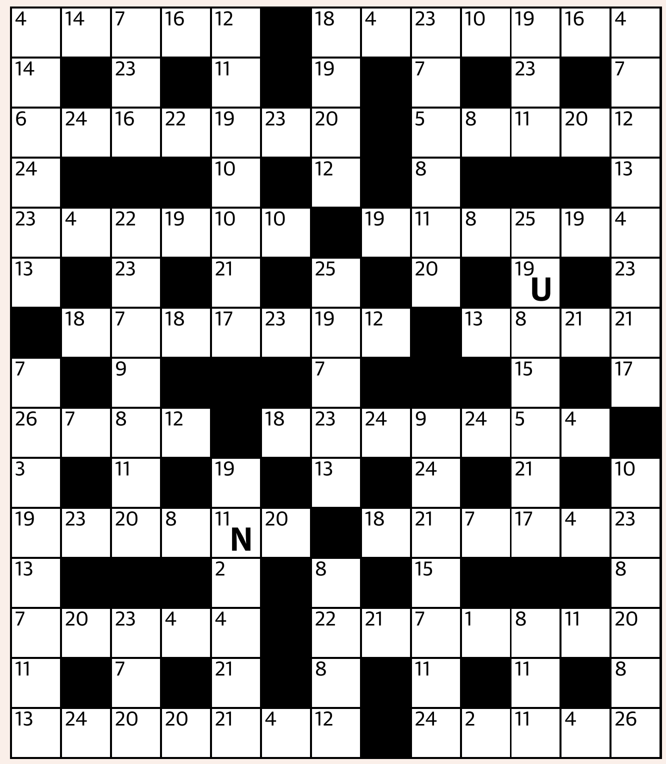


Medium

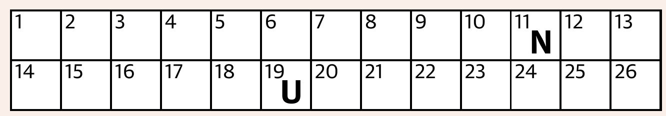


Codeword

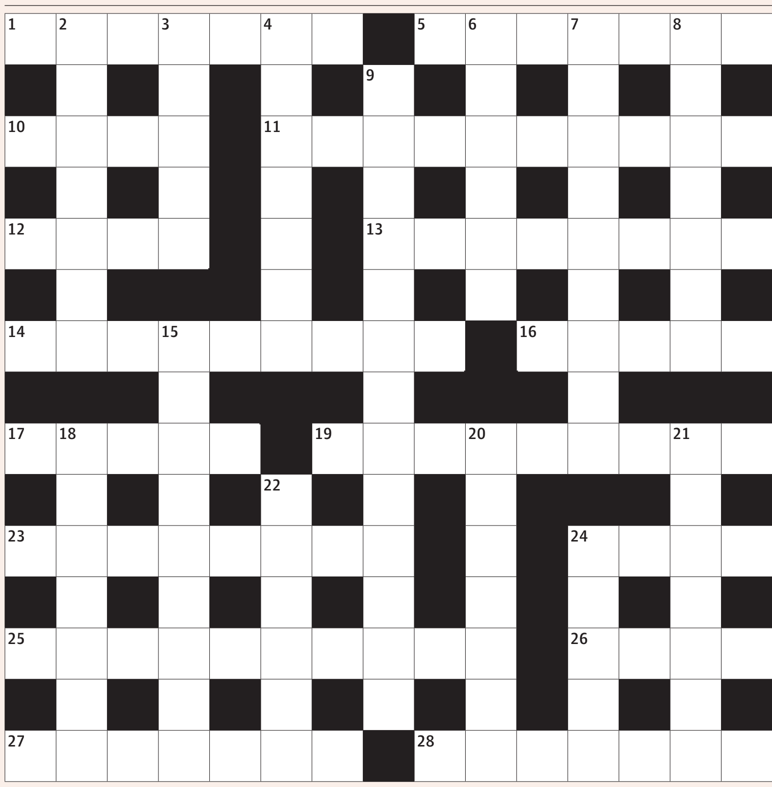
Each letter of the alphabet makes at least one appearance in the grid, and is represented by the same number wherever it appears. The letters decoded should help you to identify other letters and words in the grid.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



Guardian cryptic crossword No 29,082 set by Anto



Across

1 Put together advance to break plot (7)
5 Deceptively rich clothing for one going commando (3,4)
10 Sound hesitant in signing for another quiz (4)
11 Lady who ran distribution for artist ... (4,6)
12 ... hired gymnasium, showing stuff that's avant garde (4)
13 It's offensive ignoring Victor when in a bad way, financially (8)
14 Oscar called? Call back – he insists on marching (9)
16 Spoil quiet swamp (5)
17 Knock over playground equipment? Sounds a bit rude (5)
19 Your howl about importing nitrogen causes major dispute (6,3)
23 Where royalty may get comfort, it's said (8)
24 Finish off job quickly but lose some information (4)
25 As expected, not betraying class (4,2,4)
26 Urgent approach when evacuating large part of the US (4)
27 Conservative type on warm day regularly becomes passionate (7)
28 Clever clogs finish up, when permitted (7)

Down

2 Clean up the Italian and German and US medical program (7)
3 US city harbours a very quiet waste containment facility (5)
4 When it's due, celebrity is about to come out (7)
6 In the middle of June, Swiss friends get silly (6)
7 Company pitch a line – this may be the result (9)
8 Sums made by relatives embracing a Latin way of working (7)
9 Sad mainland loser? He was very successful at sea (7,6)
15 Wrong moment to go after rising criminal, admitting nothing (2,7)
18 Varied characters Croat actor played, for example (7)
20 Legend upset by article describing old empire (7)
21 Fury when abandoning run leads to power loss (7)
22 Passion of East Ender trying to sound more tough (6)
24 Something obscure on book may help to sell it (5)

Stuck? For help call **0906 200 83 83**. Calls cost £1.10 per minute, plus your phone company's access charge. Service supplied by ATS. Call **0330 333 6946** for customer service (charged at standard rate). **Want more?** Get access to more than 4,000 puzzles at **theguardian.com/crossword**. To buy puzzle books, visit **guardianbookshop.com** or call **0330 333 6846**.*

The Guardian



"How can you accept this world?"

Faiza Shaheen on fighting for Labour, her hatred of Oxford and the myth of social mobility

G2

Monday 29/05/23

Life & Arts

Emma Beddington
Why I'm taking my pillow on holiday
page 3



Night terrors
Should you worry about your snoring?
page 5

A new start after 60



Ann Halloran in the Nepalese Himalayas on top of Gokyo Ri, with Everest in the background

In the Himalayas, I realised I could change my life

Last September, Ann Halloran made her way to her nearest bus stop in Hove, East Sussex, with a 15kg rucksack. She had already done plenty of travelling but, at 65, was setting off alone on her first backpacking adventure. Somewhere between her first stop in Turkey and her final destination - a yoga retreat in Mazunte, Mexico - she found a new perspective.

In Nepal, climbing the 5,400m (17,575ft) Gokyo Ri in the Himalayas, Halloran broke her walking stick. She has osteoporosis, which makes bones more likely to break, so the stick was an essential piece of trekking kit in the mountains. Losing it was a blow, but she found reserves of inner strength. The setback was surmountable, a new stick was found. "It gave me confidence that at my age I could go up to that height." Now, she says: "Whenever I get scared, I think of myself on top of that mountain, looking out over Lake Gokyo - and beyond that, Everest. I say, if you can do that, you can do anything."

Halloran's career in HR has enabled her to pick up tools for personal growth. "I always told my kids about the comfort zone," she says. "You've got to keep stretching it all the time. As you get older, that's even more important because you get more fearful, and I want to fight against that."

Now 66, Halloran has loved mountains since she was five or six, when her mother took her to Ireland, to visit family in County Kerry during the summer holidays. They lived overlooking Annascaul lake on the Dingle peninsula. "It's a lovely viewpoint. I loved the freedom of going up the mountain alone."

At 23, she moved to Bellharbour, County Clare, where her uncle had a farm "on the side of the mountain". She worked in Galway, "where the multinationals were just setting up", and began to specialise in talent management and leadership programmes. In the evenings she would climb up the mountain.

It was around this time that Halloran met her husband, a farmer, and they married a few years later before starting a family.

Life settled into a comfortable rhythm. But then their four-year-old son died in a car accident; six years later, her husband died.

Halloran was 42, and her children three, five and seven. Looking back, she can see that she took refuge in work. After the loss of her son, she "became a workaholic. The week he died, I went back to work. I started at 5am, and worked until eight in the evening. I'd put the kids to bed, then go into the office at 10pm and work till 2am. It was my stability."

She worked as a self-employed HR consultant so that she could take two months off every summer to travel with the children.

Since the backpacking adventure, she understands more fully the role that work played in her life for so long. "Work was reliable. I knew what I was doing. I'm a workaholic to this day," she says. "I've just realised on this yoga retreat that I have to let go of all that. The penny is dropping for me now."

It was in Mazunte, where Halloran was one of 35 people on the yoga retreat, that one of her fellow participants suddenly became ill with a rare and potentially life-threatening condition. Halloran busied herself during meditation sessions by evaluating the centre's systems. "I wanted to sort it all out," she says. Then she realised that no one else was thinking about the practicalities - and it was a revelation. "All these people around me were so in touch with their emotions - and I was thinking about policies and procedures. They were feeling the emotions of this person. I knew I had [the capacity], but it was buried," she says.

She felt a growing self-awareness, "which I've never had before". It was always: "Make enough. Bring up the children. Get enough in the pension."

Meditation presented a different sort of challenge. She has had to slow herself down.

"I don't regret it," Halloran says of the work ethic that carried her through life for so long. But, as she has travelled and met new people, something has changed. "From now on, in the few years I've got left, I want to shift. Shift a bit," she says. "I feel as if I've washed up on the shore and it's a new venture."

Paula Cocozza

Tell us: has your life taken a new direction after the age of 60? Fill in the online form at theguardian.com/new-start-after-60

Emma Beddington



Tennis, polo, opera? No thanks. Here's my alternative season

As a newish gardening enthusiast, I found myself properly aware of Chelsea flower show, which happened last week, for the first time this year. It looked wonderful, but I don't really understand. People build gardens? Then transport them to a park? Then other people, including celebrities (mostly in the "might appear in one of those cosy Best Marigold-style TV travel shows" category), dress up to come and look at the gardens? It seems like something you'd struggle to explain to a foreign visitor (though other cultures have those: the French national agriculture show appoints a cow "muse"; this year's, a five-year-old heifer called Ovalie, was described as "rustic, robust, docile and highly adaptable").

Chelsea is mysterious because it's part of a bigger British mystery: the "season", a series of events I've had to consult Tatler to try to understand. The historical rationale - nearby entertainment for aristocrats who came to London at the precise time of year their country estates were at their most beautiful (why not do it in winter when most of Britain is mud?) to find a spouse who wasn't too close a cousin - no longer exists. Yet the remnants (boat races, opera, horse stuff, tennis matches) are viewed with reverence as a quintessential distillation of the British spring and summer and another excuse to spam us with pictures of the royal family.

I find this stuff alienating and vaguely enraging; it's codified, performative fun in florals. I'm not envious: I hate leaving the house anyway and what's on offer seems so unappealing. Watch millionaires grunt at each other in pitiless sun while eating a microscopic punnet of strawberries (£14): no. Boats: never, in any context. Squint at far-distant horses owned by the ruling elite of a repressive Gulf state? Emphatically not. Then there are the rules and rituals: hem-length checks and spaghetti-strap bans, excessive use of the words "smart" and "ladies" and non-ironic blazer-wearing. Why would anyone subject themselves to this when they could be quietly eating crisps in forgiving leisurewear?

> I find this stuff alienating; it's performative fun in florals

I accept the British spring and summer are shaped by a sequence of recurring events and experiences. I just think the ones most of us would recognise are quite different. Here are mine.

The Pimm's Disillusionment Festival You know you don't like it, but it's a warm day and all that fruit and ice looks appealing, so you try some, and no, it's still alcoholic cough syrup.

The Great Sunglasses Hunt They were there; now they're not. There's no closure, unless you've gone for the more dramatic option of sitting on them. The dress code for this is easy: no sunglasses.

Weather App Weirdness Month The climate crisis means our time-honoured tradition of checking the forecast to summon the promise of sunshine has been replaced by comparing increasingly desperate notes on the prospect of rain. "I had a 30% chance on Tuesday but now it's disappeared - you?" "No, just a single cloud on Sunday week."

The London Bikram Yoga Masters AKA the Central line in summer.

The Street Harassment Carnival "Everyone gets horny in summer," a friend says gloomily. If you can't be 48 and wearing gents' chinos (works a treat), adopt New Yorkers' camouflaging "subway T-shirt" strategy or prepare for leering.

River Rescue Regatta Watch in horror as a gang of lads have the genius idea of jumping into the local sewage-y watercourse to "cool down", then need the emergency services to rescue them. A weary appeal not to do this is subsequently issued on the regional news.

The Stealth Boasting Championship Glastonbury, home-grown tomatoes, Umbrian villa lunches, poolside six-packs in designer swimwear … The correct way to spectate on this outpouring of Instagrammed creativity is stuck to your sofa, scrolling fingers sticky from an iced delicacy whose first listed ingredient is an E number.

Glorious Park Carnage A lawless labradoodle steals your halloumi, the PDAs on the next blanket are stomach-churning and, dazed from frisbee concussion, sunstroke or both, you drink the wasp swimming in your negroni tin. Ah, the season.

This summer, I'll be packing some home comforts

Another year, another survey (by M&S bank this time) of the stuff British people insist on taking on holiday. None can beat my mother's friend who travelled to China for a fortnight with a suitcase filled with Ginger Nuts, but honestly, what weirdos take a water filter jug (4%), antibacterial spray (30%) and air freshener (9%)? What of seeing where the wind takes you, home fragrance and bacteria-wise?

No, I can't keep this pretence up. For a start, the 43% who bring their own teabags are entirely correct. No one should face the morning with only Lipton Yellow or whatever pumpkin-spiced water America is calling "tea" this year. Slippers (36%): yes, of course, because cosiness is high on the holiday checklist. "Your favourite mug" (10%): I'm torn. It's true that all holiday accommodation expects you to drink out of a thimble, like a Beatrix Potter dormouse, but what kind of a reckless fool risks their favourite mug in a suitcase? Third favourite I could get behind.

Then there are the 19% who take their pillow. A few years ago that would have seemed absurd to me, but a lot of humbling things can happen in a few years, such as your ears getting so weirdly sensitive - I think it's earplug overuse - that it hurts to lie on hard pillows. The rot started when we went away for a month in the car, because those seemed reasonable circumstances in which to travel with an emotional support merino side sleeper. But you know you're on the slippery slope when you convince yourself it's sensible to take up all the available bag space with your comfy pillow: pfft, who needs a toothbrush? To the 19%, you are my people. I've decided to shed the shame and spend this spring researching what other bulky household items I should wrestle into my carry-on to change my holiday life.





The pet I'll never forget
Julian the mafia cat

I grew up around different kinds of domestic cat. My grandparents had a cat. My parents had three. My sister has had seven cats over the years. So I thought I was pretty familiar with their behaviour parameters. That is until I met Julian.

Julian is a law unto himself, less cat and more Artful Dodger with mafia stirrings. We got him from an animal rescue charity in 2019 when he was presumed to be two years old. All we knew about him was: "He cannot tolerate living with other animals or small children."

I do not know what shady events had occurred in the run-up to this warning, but I now suspect it to be a gross understatement. Upon adoption by us, he was renamed in honour of Star Trek's Dr Julian Bashir, a genetically engineered human with genius capabilities. It suits Julian better than Rocco, his former, charity-bestowed name.

Cats have a reputation for independence but Julian really does do whatever the hell he likes. His main activities are: patrolling an ever-expanding territory; fighting anything and anyone (he has been neutered but is oblivious to that); befriending and/or menacing foxes and/or pretending that he is a fox; disappearing for days and then reappearing as if nothing has happened.

> He held another cat hostage in a shed for a number of weeks

Despite all this - or maybe because of it - we worship him. His activities have led to an elaborate family narrative where his rejection of home life can only be explained by the existence of a burgeoning door-to-door sales empire. It is imagined that he is running a chimney-sweeping business - "with a sideline in fish recycling" — under the name J Grimbley Esq.

His entrepreneurship may, however, be a front. There is some evidence that he tried to hold another cat hostage in a shed for a number of weeks - or at least patrolled the poor animal's territory so effectively that it was too afraid to go home. (The owner asked us to incarcerate Julian for 24 hours. Their cat returned. Many embarrassing community WhatsApp messages ensued.)

Sometimes, he reappears with multiple injuries. One morning he was found sitting on the sofa with half of his face hanging off, having incurred £2,500-worth of damage to his jaw (luckily we have insurance). In January alone he was treated for puncture wounds by the vet on three separate occasions.

I asked the vet what she suggested we do to keep Julian safe. And to keep others safe from Julian. She looked at me wide-eyed and replied: "Oh, I could never have a cat like this. I would be too anxious." We pray the *capo di tutti capi* will live long and prosper. But we also recommend getting your chimney swept sooner rather than later. **Viv Groskop**

COVER: SUKI DHANDA/THE GUARDIAN
PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF VIV GROSKOP; GETTY IMAGES

Thirst principles

Is it safe to avoid 'boring' water and drink nothing but coffee, tea or fizzy drinks? **Lizzie Cernik** gets some expert advice



Guzzling water has become something of a badge of honour among celebrities, with Jennifer Aniston and Gwyneth Paltrow revealing they drink up to three litres a day. But not everyone finds it so easy. Florence Pugh, for one, recently announced that she finds water "too boring to drink". As well as the lack of flavour, she bemoaned the constant toilet breaks that come with a high intake, calling them "a waste of time". Instead, she prefers orange juice, elderflower presses and tea.

What do the experts say? How much water should we be drinking every day – and is it just as healthy to get your hydration from other beverages?

The Chester-based GP Chris Ritchieson says NHS guidelines suggest drinking around six to eight glasses of water a day, which is roughly two litres. "Although this is the general guidance, there is very little concrete research and evidence about the optimum amount of water to drink," he says. "People have different sensitivity levels to dehydration, so it could vary from person to person."

When dehydration symptoms do occur, they can be hard to spot, and easily confused with something else. "Not drinking enough can increase the risk of urinary tract infections and headaches, along with tiredness, confusion, passing darker urine, dry cracked skin and irregular bowel movements," says Ritchieson. It can also lead to low blood pressure or postural hypotension, a condition where standing up can cause sudden dizziness and falls.

Drinking more water, meanwhile, can help to prevent health conditions such as migraines, frequent headaches and kidney stones.

> **Drinking more water can reduce the risk of migraines, headaches and kidney stones**

While plain water is the healthiest source of hydration, Ritchieson says any nonalcoholic drink makes a contribution. When, in 2016, researchers at the University of Stirling monitored hydration levels in students for four hours after taking on different liquids, they found that a litre of instant coffee – and even beer – was as hydrating as the same amount of water. But hydration levels remained highest of all, above water even, after drinking milk.

But it's not a good idea to drink many water alternatives on a regular basis. "Tea and coffee are diuretics, which means they make you go to the toilet more often," says Ritchieson. "Fizzy drinks, squashes and juices will also hydrate you, but we discourage people from drinking too much due to the high sugar content, which can lead to other health issues in the long-term."

The caffeine in tea and coffee can cause other side-effects, according to Nishtha Patel, a functional medicine practitioner and clinical nutritionist. These include an increased heart rate and palpitations, anxiety, restlessness, insomnia, digestive problems such as nausea and diarrhoea, sleep disturbances, high blood pressure and even caffeine addiction. "It is recommended that we limit caffeine intake to about 400mg a day, which is equivalent to approximately four to five cups of coffee or eight to 10 cups of tea," she says.

When it comes to sugar, the NHS recommends consuming no more than 30g of "free sugars" a day, which includes sugars added by food manufacturers, as well as natural sugars in fruit juice, honey and syrups. Patel says that some fizzy drinks or energy drinks contain enough sugar to take us over the daily recommended intake in just one serving. "Diet drinks are really not much better. They affect the gut microbiome and, like other ultra-processed foods, have been linked to other diseases, including memory decline and liver issues."

Fresh juices contain more nutrients than fizzy drinks, but Patel warns it can still be easy to go over the recommended daily sugar allowance. "On average, a (225g) serving of freshly squeezed orange juice contains around 20-25g of sugar. Consuming too much sugar, even from natural sources, can still have negative health effects and





increase the risk of type 2 diabetes and obesity. Water hydrates us with zero calories."

If, like Pugh, you find drinking water "too boring" or tasteless, the nutritional therapist Thalia Pellegrini recommends adding fruit or cucumber to a water jug and putting it in the fridge. "That adds just enough flavour for some people," she says. "You can also try herbal teas and diluted fresh juices. If you really can't stand the taste of water, try adding squash. It does have a lot of sugar but it's better for you than going without fluids."

A diet with plenty of plants can help, as you'll get extra hydration from fruits and vegetables. "Some ingredients like celery, lettuce, tomatoes and watermelon are more than 90% water," she says. "You can also try eating plenty of peaches, pineapples, oranges and pears."

PHOTOGRAPHS: HULTON DEUTSCH/CORBIS/GETTY; ALAMY; GETTY

> **A diet with plenty of plants can help, as you'll get hydration from fruit and veg**

And what about the people who avoid drinking water because they are afraid of needing the toilet too often? Veerpal Sandhu, an advanced clinical pharmacist for GP surgeries in Essex, says this is especially common in pregnant women and elderly people, who may have more issues controlling their bladder. "Mostly people manage by not drinking too much before travelling, going out or going to bed," she says. "One solution is to drink more when you are near available toilets. And there are pelvic floor exercises you can do to improve bladder control."

Sandhu points out that water is essential for human health. "It makes up over two-thirds of the healthy human body. It lubricates the joints and eyes, aids digestion, flushes out waste and toxins, and keeps the skin healthy."

It is, of course, possible to drink too much water. "As a result of some of the publicity - often from celebrities - about drinking more, we occasionally see people who have become unwell from drinking too much," says Ritchieson.

"Overhydrating can lead to a condition called hyponatremia, which means that your salt levels have become too diluted. This can cause headaches, dizziness and, in extreme cases, unconsciousness. If you're going to increase your water intake, I recommend doing it gradually and drinking little and often throughout the day."

How much is too much will depend on the individual, and how fast they are drinking. "That's why we always recommend little and often," says Ritchieson. "The kidneys can eliminate 20 to 28 litres of water a day, but no more than about a litre an hour, so the important thing is to spread your intake out throughout the day.

"For most people, unless they are exercising, living in a hot climate or unwell, about 1.5 to three litres of water a day will always be enough."



Should I worry … about my snoring?

It is bad for your sleep quality, it is annoying for your partner and it is almost certainly affecting your health, but you already know you shouldn't browse Twitter before bed. What about snoring? It is tempting to write it off as a problem you can't do anything about or an entertaining quirk, but does it signify anything about your health? And can you stop doing it?

Certain health problems will manifest through snoring, but that doesn't mean that snoring is always a cause for concern. Fundamentally, it's an indication that your airways aren't functioning properly - over either the short term or the long term - as the blood vessels inside your nose fill up when you lie down.

We all snore occasionally: colds can further obstruct our nasal passages, and one too many drinks before bed will relax the muscles of the tongue and throat, both of which lead to noisier slumber than usual. Smoking is also a common cause of snoring, as it results in inflammation in the tissues of the upper airway. But what if you snore all the time?

> Taping a tennis ball to your sleepwear sounds odd - but the NHS endorses it

Dr Shereen Lim, a dental specialist in airway health and the author of Breathe, Sleep, Thrive, says: "Most simply, snoring can fragment sleep, robbing us of its full restorative benefits. But it's the most common symptom of a common yet widely undiagnosed condition called obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA)."

OSA is when the airway collapses momentarily due to weak, heavy or relaxed soft tissues, and it happens persistently for more than 10 seconds at a time. It means your body stops breathing temporarily, which isn't ideal. "OSA has been linked to disturbed sleep, chronic stress and inflammation," says Lim. "But it's also linked to an increased risk of virtually every chronic health condition, from high blood pressure, heart disease and depression to metabolic disease, memory loss, cancer and more."

In terms of warning sounds, a loud snore may indicate greater resistance to airflow, but it does not necessarily say much about how disrupted your sleep is likely to be. More concerning are signs and symptoms including choking or gasping while you're asleep, waking up unexpectedly or just feeling unrefreshed during the rest of your day.

So what can you do about it? The simplest answer is to stop snoring before it starts. "Modern healthcare focuses on diagnosing and treating OSA, the most severe end of the spectrum of sleep breathing disturbances, but that's like treating coronary artery disease rather than focusing on prevention and promoting health," says Lim.

If you already snore occasionally, switching from sleeping on your back to sleeping on your side can help. Taping a tennis ball to the back of your sleepwear may sound like dad science, but the NHS endorses it, although pillows and bed wedges may feel a bit more dignified. Some people find nasal sprays and strips help, although evidence of their efficacy is mixed.

If problems persist or get worse, myofunctional therapy - exercises that train the muscles around the face, mouth and tongue - can help in mild cases, or work alongside treatments for more severe ones. They can even be fun: "Didgeridoo playing has been shown to reduce snoring, as well as obstructive sleep apnoea and its symptoms," says Lim.

Moderate and severe cases may call for dental devices that hold the lower jaw in a position that discourages snoring. For more severe problems, surgery offers an array of options that target a person's individual risk factors and help restore airway structure and function, but there is some disagreement over its long-term effectiveness.

You may have seen mention on social media about the benefits of taping your mouth closed, but most doctors agree that it is dangerous, especially if you already have sleep apnoea, while one small study suggests that mouth-tapers just switch to "mouth puffing", meaning it doesn't work anyway.

The best solution is probably preventive: maintaining a healthy weight, as well as keeping the muscles of your core in shape, can help, as can eating well and reducing your alcohol intake.

Staying off Twitter while you are in bed probably won't make a difference, but you should do that anyway. **Joel Snape**

‘Social mobility is a fairytale’

The Muslim daughter of working-class immigrants, Faiza Shaheen made it to Oxford University and hated what she found – and the way she became a symbol of meritocracy. **Chitra Ramaswamy** hears why she is fighting to be a Labour MP

It was 12 December 2019; the first winter general election in Britain since 1923. Faiza Shaheen walked into Waltham Forest town hall in north-east London. The academic, economist, self-described inequality geek and Labour parliamentary candidate for Chingford and Woodford Green was about to find out if she had pulled off a feat so close to impossible that the odds were one in 10m. Had she – a working-class, Muslim, British-Pakistani-Fijian daughter of a car mechanic – toppled the former leader of the Conservative party, Iain Duncan Smith, in a seat that he had held for 27 years? A seat in which Tory values were so enshrined, it was previously held – albeit the boundaries had changed over the years – by Norman Tebbit and Winston Churchill. It was the perfect David versus Goliath battle. And then David lost.

“It was crushing,” says Shaheen. “One of those out-of-body experiences. They show you the results just before you go on stage and I was like: ‘Oh my God, we’ve lost.’ I could see my party, all these young people with so much hope on their faces, and I couldn’t look at them. When I saw Iain Duncan Smith go up, I just thought: ‘How can this be the outcome?’”

In her new book, Know Your Place, in which she analyses the social inequality she has experienced first-hand, she writes that as she watched Smith give his victory speech, all she could say, over and over again, was: “There is no justice.”

The loss was deeply personal. For years, Shaheen had watched her mother, who had heart failure and was unable to work, battle an increasingly inhumane and broken benefits system of which Smith had been the architect. “I will not forget the extra pain my mum went through,” she says. In 2017, three months after a successful heart transplant, her mother died unexpectedly in the local “completely falling apart” hospital, one of the 40 the Tories later pledged to rebuild. “We went to see her on Christmas Day and all of a sudden she was on a ventilator,” says Shaheen. “The infection had gone to her brain. She died of brain damage; her new heart was great. That was one of the hardest things about it.” She takes a deep breath. “So, yeah, it’s very personal.”

We meet at the Guardian’s London office on a warm spring afternoon. Shaheen is articulate but wary, and not as outspoken as I expected from reading her book and watching her campaigning. Her cautiousness, however, is less a reflection of the politician’s tendency to deflect and more to do with the level of abuse she has encountered – from left and right – since entering politics. The first words of Know Your Place are “terrorist sympathiser”, which two men shouted at her as she ran into the polling station to put a cross beside her own name. During the 2019 campaign, she was called the Chingford Corbynite, a nod to Tebbit’s 1970s nickname, the Chingford skinhead. When I ask whether she has more or less faith in Labour now than she did in 2019 – because, yes, Shaheen is running again – the longest pause of the interview ensues.

“I think any kind of wholesale faith in a political party is a bad idea,” she says eventually. “But what I can say is that I think people like me could push them on things in a way that we cannot right now with a Conservative government. We have to work with what we have. It’s worth going all in at this point.”

Is she more nervous running again? “The first time I didn’t know what I was getting into,” she says. “Going back into it, I definitely have much more anxiety because I know there’s a whole lot of stuff that comes with it. I just focus on all the wonderful people who come and support me. Despite the machinery quite honestly not wanting me to run again, I have a responsibility.” She laughs. “We’ll see how it goes.”

Losing in 2019 was, in the end, instructive. Shaheen lost by just 1,262 votes and Chingford and Woodford Green was one of only six seats in the country to see a swing to Labour. In the days, weeks and months that followed, she started to reassess what had happened. She found that while the odds of going to Oxford University – which she did – and then on to become an MP were one in 10m for her, they were closer to one in 10,000 for David Cameron and Boris Johnson. The question was less why she had lost, and more why she had ever thought she could win.

Out of all this has come Know Your Place, a powerful interrogation of social mobility or, as successive prime ministers on both sides have called it over the decades, trickle-down economics, meritocracy, levelling up. Using examples, statistics and her own experiences, Shaheen argues that the pervasive idea that “anyone can make it with hard work” results in the precise opposite: everyone’s failure except the rich and powerful. She analyses factors including race, class, education, housing and income to reveal how Britain has become less mobile over generations. It is a damning indictment of our system and is guaranteed to enrage all but those at the very top, whom it will enrage for different reasons. As for the shining examples of the one black judge or the self-made millionaire routinely held up as proof of social mobility, these are merely the exceptions that prove the rule. “Social mobility is a fairytale,” Shaheen concludes. “In simple statistical terms, it is a lie.”

She is, of course, one of these shining examples herself. She grew up in a working-class, low-income household. Her family moved often, and in one place she had to share a bed with her sister to keep warm in a room in which there were snail trails on the floor in the morning. Racism was a regular threat: her Fijian father, who died of bone cancer not long after her mother’s death, would tell Shaheen how the men he worked with at the garage would set his newspaper alight as he was reading it, and how he once punched a racist skinhead who was threatening her pregnant mum.

As she describes him in Know Your Place, her father was “dodgy with money, dodgy with women and dodgy with his fists”. Shaheen’s mother, whom he met while on the run from the police, eventually divorced him. Her dad tried to make her mum and sister homeless (Shaheen, by this point, had left home) and they ended up having to represent themselves in court. However, he taught Shaheen to be proud of her Pakistani-Fijian and working-class roots.

“There was an end-of-year award ceremony at my school when we were kids,” Shaheen recalls, “and they got Norman Tebbit in to give out prizes. Me and my brother had won loads of them, and so had lots of the children of immigrants. Every time they read out the prize, another black or brown person came up to receive it. My dad couldn’t stop laughing. He said: ‘This is the best revenge … that *he* has to give my children prizes.’ I



In Chingford in 2019 with then Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn


‘It’s worth going all in’ … Shaheen at home in east London

PHOTOGRAPHS: GARETH FULLER/PA; SUKI DHANDA/THE GUARDIAN



Any wholesale faith in a political party is a bad idea, but we work with what we have

think my attitude comes from him. You know, why shouldn't I take these people on?"

Shaheen got into Oxford to study philosophy, politics and economics (PPE), did a PhD in applied economics and became the director of the Centre for Labour and Social Studies, a leftwing thinktank originating in the trade union movement. She is now a visiting professor at the London School of Economics and one of her recent policy reports was launched by the former New Zealand prime minister Jacinda Ardern. "So often people say to me, 'You did it, so others can do it,'" she says. "We hold up exceptions to show that everyone can do it. It's a false story. We live in a society where most people stay in their place."

She wants to use her privileged position to expose what she has witnessed as "someone who was never meant to be in those rooms". As she writes in Know Your Place: "Think of me as a mole." On her experience of studying PPE at Oxford - the degree of prime ministers - she is unequivocal. "I hated Oxford with a passion," she says. "I don't think I was able to articulate that I was a socialist until I went there." In her book, she writes: "I can tell you that in my experience, many of the people who studied PPE are among the worst, most arrogant and entitled people around. I would go as far as saying that reading PPE at Oxford should be seen as a red flag."

What Oxford did give her was a class education. "I heard what they think of us when they're drunk," she says. "It was atrocious. Like the way they would treat my friends when they came up, and not sit next to us, especially if they were black. A friend of mine put on a play about Stephen Lawrence and a guy put his hand up afterwards and said: 'But isn't it true that black people cause crime?' I just thought, oh my God, these people are going to have so much power. If I've been so lucky to have this privileged education, I need to use it to counter some of this."

She is particularly good on the rightwing weaponisation of the white working class as a separate racial category. "Since when did the working class become white? It's a mythology. It's as if you're not allowed to be working class if you're brown or black … because in this country, the working class is at once pathologised and seen as a badge of honour. There's been a clear effort to divide these groups, though the material reality, and how you're judged by society, is in a lot of ways very similar. We need to tell these stories of solidarity and convergence of experience. Otherwise, it's just going to be more division."

She is regularly asked to comment on what the increase in racial diversity in the Conservative party represents. That Rishi Sunak - the richest British PM in history, who followed the standard route of elite private school, Oxbridge then parliament that more than half our prime ministers have taken - is venerated as a symbol of social mobility enrages her. "Rishi Sunak is an example of the ability of class and wealth to propel people to the top, and to override race," she says. "He proves my point about the fiction of social mobility. This is the problem when you separate race and class. What I would say about the Conservative party is that they've been very clever about using identity politics, the thing they're always blaming the left for doing. You will never see the Conservative frontbench without women and people of colour, even more than Labour, unfortunately. But it's superficial. The message is: 'We'll let you in, but only if you play by our rules.' It's no coincidence that none of them are even vague proponents of anti-racism. Quite the opposite."

Know Your Place offers a bleak assessment of inequality, but Shaheen believes change is possible if we reconsider what we are valuing. "I don't think aspiration should be limited to this idea of going to Oxford and getting a high-paying job," she replies. "The whole idea needs flipping." She wants to bin the idea of "the top". The final section of the book lists the ways in which she believes the system can be changed. These range from valuing collective social impact over economic wealth, and a solidarity tax to pay for the policies she will fight for if she wins in the next general election. "The book is called Know Your Place," she says, "but what I want people to do with that knowledge is get angry and collectively say: 'We are not going to be put in our place any more.'

"When I started writing it, I didn't think I would run again," Shaheen says. By the time she finished it, she had changed her mind. Why? "It's not something I can give up on," she says. "I just couldn't let it go. I don't know if it's hope or a sense that we don't have any choice. We either accept this world or we try to do something." She laughs mirthlessly. "And how can you accept this?"

Know Your Place is published by Simon & Schuster (£16.99). To support the Guardian and the Observer, buy a copy at guardianbookshop.com. Delivery charges may apply

Songs in the key of grief


'I would enshrine myself wih found objects' … Byrne

Singer-songwriter Julie Byrne's friend and collaborator Eric Littmann died at 31. Yet the astonishing final record they made together is really about life, she tells **Laura Snapes**

Julie Byrne precisely remembers the day she met the man who would change her life. "I loved him right away," she says. It was the 2014 SXSW festival in Austin, Texas and Eric Littmann had helped engineer an outdoor live session by the then-emerging songwriter on a dry creek bed. "He always said he felt chosen by me, right out the gate," she recalls. "I remember feeling so at ease in his presence." At the creek, they paired off together. "We heard the call of a mourning dove and I asked him whose song that was and he told me."

Today, mourning doves are common in Byrne's New York neighbourhood, where she moved after Littmann's untimely death in June 2021, at age 31. One often perches by her studio window. "As a bereaved person who's always trying to figure out how to reach him, these are things that I experience as visitations," she says, speaking by phone. "It doesn't even feel so much like an association. It feels real, undeniable."

During what Byrne calls "mine and Eric's era", the pair developed a profound connection that radiated through her luminous songwriting, soaked in folky fingerpicking, glowing ambience and gentle, raga-like swells. Early on they "went crashing into love", moving in together after a month. "I would literally run from the train to get home to be with him sooner," she says, awed by the memory. After a year, they reverted to being just friends, and Littmann became the steadfast creative collaborator of a once determinedly solitary artist.

In Austin, Byrne had performed Emeralds, from her 2014 debut Rooms With Walls and Windows, a serene song about potent desire that quoted Frank O'Hara's Animals. By the time she released her 2017 breakthrough, Not Even Happiness, produced by Littmann, she had established her own form of poetry. The album weighed the pull of the road against finding home in someone, Byrne's metaphysical writing alighting on those rare moments of alignment. "It's difficult for me to put into words where it came from," she says, acknowledging that shift. "Perhaps there was a greater contact with mystery."

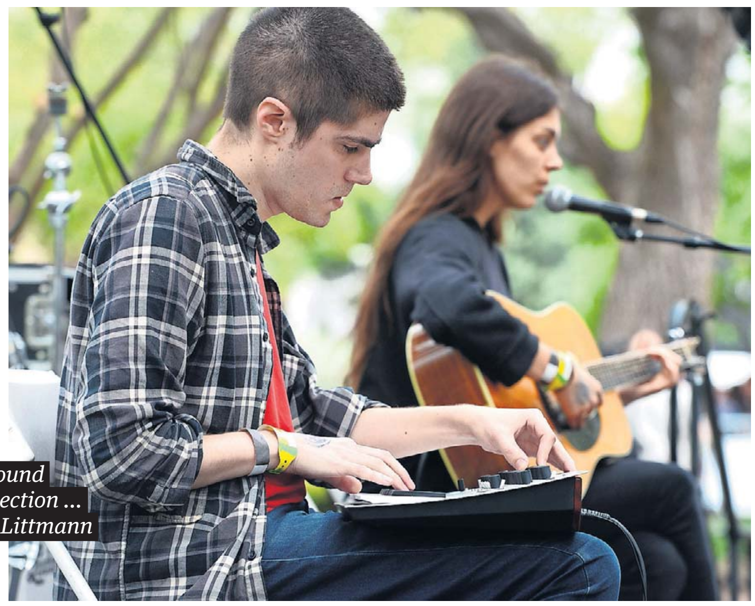
Byrne started making her spectacular third album, The Greater Wings, with Littmann in autumn 2020. It was shelved for six months after his death, and finished with Alex Somers (formerly of duo Jónsi and Alex with Sigur Rós's lead singer) in early 2022. It is a spellbinding record, Byrne's steadiest songwriting - peaceful, yet fiercely determined - pooled in stained-glass light, heart-fluttering synth arpeggiations and indelible choruses that could flood the whole sky. Much of it was written before Littmann's passing; despite its easy associations with grief, really it contemplates desire as a form of self-knowledge.

"Grieving, in my experience, isn't just sorrow," she says, with piercing clarity. "I've heard it described as a motivational state, a state of yearning. The record does contain grief but it's so much more about life and memorial, what it really means to count on someone. There's a lot of unending love there that was clear before and it's perhaps even more clear now."

We speak the week that Byrne, 32, is starting live rehearsals. She disarms me by asking not "how are you?" but "how's your sleep?". She is a thoughtful conversationalist with a huge, colourful laugh like a peony bursting open. Her own sleep is "five out of 10" - this week has been busy with collaborators crashing on her floor.

Playing these songs together for

> "I'm so grateful that I got to spend his last year doing what we love side by side


Profound connection … with Littmann

PHOTOGRAPHS: SCOTT DUDELSON/WIREIMAGE

the first time, she was surprised to find the experience "empowering and healing", she says. "I was expecting to be obscured by so much pain. It was actually an experience of feeling close with Eric, even in his physical absence."

For Byrne, Littmann was "my constancy - I had so much home in him and with him". It was a feeling that she had been looking for since her youth in rural upstate New York. She was a rebellious teenager who skipped school but was "motivated by what mattered to me" - namely, finding belonging through music. Although she came from a creative family, her parents didn't encourage music as a livelihood, so Byrne moved to Buffalo aged 17 to play DIY shows in abandoned spaces - even the fountain downtown at 2am, she says, happily. It was a "pretty lawless" environment, "but there was so much community support, people putting in the labour of love to organise the shows". At her earliest performances, Byrne would shake "so bad I could barely get through the songs", yet would "enshrine myself with driftwood, candles, found objects".

The connections Byrne made there set her off into the US underground, repeatedly moving from coast to coast, plotting her first DIY tours and releasing her debut in 2014 to some acclaim. Ironically, her mother had modelled the resilience necessary for a life where you don't always know where you're sleeping that night: after *her* mother died when she was 22, she quit her job making lightbulbs to cross the country. "Her response to the cataclysm of grief was to travel, to live by her own words and work ethic," says Byrne.

Byrne kept moving after she met Littmann. A renowned, widely published microbiome specialist at New York's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, he took a leave of absence to record Not Even Happiness and tour Europe with her. "There was so much movement under our wings," she says. "We really did travel as much as we could. He never wanted to wait another moment. If he felt the calling to do something, he would make time for it." Now she takes solace, she says, "that he knew enough not to wait".

Repeated moving, Byrne admits, had also been an attempt to outrun her sorrows. "And after a certain point, you run out of road, which I needed to do," she says. She and Littmann settled in New York, where he inspired her to study environmental sciences and work as a seasonal ranger for the parks department. Touring Not Even Happiness ultimately nixed her degree, and Byrne ended up in Los Angeles. She spent the early pandemic there, the longest she had ever been away from Littmann, who was by then in Chicago. After six months of "incredible aloneness", she moved in with him and they started recording The Greater Wings shortly before her 30th birthday.

"I don't really make a habit of regret," she says, now speaking in fragments. "I'm so grateful that I got to spend so much of his last year doing what we love side by side. But sometimes I feel like in the years that I was in LA, I lost sight of what I needed most. Part of that was our collaboration."

For The Greater Wings, says Byrne, "we wanted to take risks", expanding on the synths Littmann had introduced on Not Even Happiness. In spring 2021, they travelled to New York to record harp and LA to record strings. Byrne was on the verge of moving to New Mexico. Then Littmann died. (Before the interview, I am told not to ask how.) "I lost part of myself," says Byrne, stumbling. "I'm still living to remap that part of me that is so accustomed to being able to reach him that it almost felt like a phantom limb."

She moved back to New York, blocks away from where they had lived together. "People always say, don't make any life decisions at the outset of acute grief," she says, "but my intuition was screaming at me to move back." Friends who also knew Littmann helped her survive, and she didn't return to the music for six months. When she did, even finding the files on his computer was a challenge. "Not to mention what it was like opening them without him in the world any more, when he was truly the only person who had ever heard these songs."

The Greater Wings stands as a testament to deep bonds like theirs. The title of the choral, shimmering Conversation Is a Flowstate was something Littmann said to Byrne after she described to him a degrading relationship with a prominent musician (who she declines to name) "that required a tremendous amount of reclamation of self-worth", she says, after they treated her "like I was nothing more than a body". His gnomic, wise response reminded her "what true mutuality feels like", and emboldened her to rebuke the perpetrator in song.

What real love looks like, says Byrne, is the ability to be new to someone, a theme that recurs across the album. "I love that that stood out," she says when I bring it up. "That's kind of the name of the game. So much of love is testing the ability to renew with someone. I might be in grief but I'm not lost." Byrne says her task now is to create the sense of home for herself that she found in Littmann. "There's no place I could ever go to outrun my grieving. Now I know enough to at least endeavour to stay, to try to find the will to become more intimate with my sorrows."

Amid the prismatic, sycamore-key swirl of Summer Glass, Byrne makes a declaration: "I want to be whole enough to risk again." I wonder if she is there yet? "It's a moment to moment thing but I would say overall, I am because I'm doing this," she says. "I'm releasing this record, about to tour - all of that is willingness to risk. But it happened gradually, and it's still in process."

The Greater Wings is released via Ghostly International on 7 July

The great women's art bulletin

Katy Hessel



Why are women artists still expected to make way for men? It's time we demanded the right to take up public spaces



Destroyed … Augusta Savage at work in 1939

PHOTOGRAPH: MANUSCRIPTS AND ARCHIVES/NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Last week I was speaking with an artist - highly regarded and in her 60s - when she began telling me about a recent incident with a male curator. She had been helping him install a show at a major institution when he realised the measurements for a large work of hers were off - he'd failed to double check the dimensions of the gallery. As a result, he asked if she could chop off a section of her large-scale artwork so it could fit. Understandably outraged, she declined, and the work didn't end up in the show. But she also wondered whether the curator would have asked the same of a male artist - to butcher his own work to make it accommodate the space?

Women accommodate to a fault. But why have we been made to feel like this: guilty if we take up space; unpleasant if everything we do is not done with grace; demanding if we ask for what we want? It's shocking to think that in 2023, the questioning of women's authority - and the disbelief in what we are capable of - is still rife.

In historical terms, it is partly because society hasn't presented us with a vision in which women own certain spaces. Take a portrait commissioned to show the 36 founding members of the Royal Academy of Arts in London, of whom two were women, Angelica Kauffman and Mary Moser. Instead of painting them alongside the men who were all decked out in suits and studying a nude model, the painter Johann Zoffany reduced them to two almost unrecognisable portrait busts in the corner of the room. (The Royal Academy did not admit women to the life-drawing studio until the 1890s.)

Women's work has also been hidden from view. In 2019, a large version of the Last Supper by the nun-artist Plautilla Nelli from around 1568 went on view at the refectory of Santa Maria Novella, Florence - its first outing.

Women have been crowded out in other places where they have made their work. When Lee Krasner shared a home with her husband, Jackson Pollock, in Springs, Long Island, her studio was confined to the spare bedroom, while he had the sprawling barn. And when winter came, she was the one forced to relocate to the living room.

Then there are the times women's works haven't even survived. At the 1939 World's Fair in New York City, a 16-foot-high sculpture stood in its centre. Elegantly shaped like a harp, Lift Every Voice and Sing depicted 12 singing figures in floor-length robes standing in the palm of God's hand, and a kneeling child. The work, by Augusta Savage, was commissioned to show the contribution to music by African Americans. But, despite the national press coverage it earned, it was destroyed after the fair due to an inability (or unwillingness) to fund its storage. What impact would this work have had on future generations if it had been preserved?

This story makes me think about how many other works have been destroyed because they were created by, or depicted, people regarded as unimportant, while the works that have remained reinforce a narrative about the greatness of white men. The author Kate Mosse pointed out in her book Warrior Queens and Quiet Revolutionaries that there are more statues in the UK of men named John than there are statues of women, and in Edinburgh there are more statues of animals than named women.

Last year, when I interviewed the American artist Amy Sherald - who rose to fame after painting the presidential portrait of the first lady Michelle Obama, the first African American woman to do so - she recalled the power of seeing African Americans represented in art when she was a little girl: "I remember thinking, I wonder what my life would feel like if every single statue that I ever walked by … in all these different public spaces, looks like me?"

How different our lives would be if we saw ourselves reflected on museum walls and in public spaces. Representation is key because seeing something created by someone that looks like you empowers you, makes you feel part of the conversation, and encourages you to achieve the same things as them. But it also teaches us how to treat and respect those in society who may seem different from us. Because, despite the progress of showing women's work today, it is still being sidelined, delimited and asked to be reduced in size. Any art or anyone is worthy of taking up space and we must go out of our way to accommodate that, no matter our gender or background.



Ed Stafford visits residents on the Northumberland Park estate

Review 60 Days on the Estates, Channel 4

A heartbreaking guide to what life is really like on the breadline

★★★★☆

Lucy Mangan



I hadn't realised how traumatised I remain by Michael Portillo. Not so much the trousers and jackets sported on his train travel, although they remain borderline criminal, but his efforts to engage with The Poor. First in 1993, when he emulated the lifestyle of a single mother on benefits ("For someone like me, who's never had to think about these things, it's just boring having to think all the time about how you buy the cheapest things and whether the money's going to last"). And then again - because those poor and their boring lives are always with us, are they not? - five years ago he gave us a feature-length documentary in which he oozed around the council estates of England in Our Housing Crisis: Who's to Blame? If memory serves, the answer somehow wasn't Margaret Thatcher's reign-defining sell-off of the public housing stock (we had 6.5m council homes in 1980; nearly a third of them were transferred to private hands under the Right to Buy scheme). Instead, it was apparently the failure of councils to build replacements since. Obvious, really, especially if you are a devotee of oleaginous logic delivered with a smug but straight face.

But it all comes flooding back. As do awful memories of Matthew Parris attempting to live on benefits for a week in 1983. He considered the people he met, living "meagre and threadbare" lives, were at the right level of poverty to stay motivated, and returned 20 years later to find how things had turned out. Fortunately, in 60 Days on the Estates, Ed Stafford - who spends three weeks on a London estate then three weeks on its Brummie equivalent in next week's episode - might be another middle-aged, middle-class white man, but he is not a Conservative MP. This, it turns out, makes quite the difference.

Stafford is a former army officer who has carved out a career as an explorer and survivalist. But, despite that, his demeanour is gentle to the point of diffidence. There is no roaring ego, and people come to him as much as he goes to them over the 21 days he spends on the notorious Northumberland Park estate in Haringey, north London. The estate, and the borough, are riven with armed gang warfare, a third of the households qualify as "deprived", the dozen food banks in the area are besieged and the legacy of the Tottenham riots lives on.

He meets Michelle, a mother of nine, and her friend Dionne, a single mother of three sets of twins, at Haringey Play Association. Dionne, 34, has lived in the same one-bedroom council flat since she was a university student. When Stafford visits, he brings cooked chicken with him for the family. What would Portillo or Parris have brought, I wonder? A bottle of port? She shows Stafford the sheaf of correspondence between her and the council going back years, in which she begs to be rehoused, or for them to mend the leaking pipe on the block's roof that is causing rising damp and black mould on the walls and her children to have asthma. Nothing, according to a caption that appears on screen before the credits roll, has yet been done.

Phil sees Stafford sitting on a wall on the edges of the estate and invites him in for a cup of tea. Details are not given but it is clear that Phil - sweet, charming, articulate - has had a terrible childhood that made him a crack addict by the age of 17. When Stafford meets him, he hasn't used for four days. It does not last. He used to be a gardener until five years ago, when anxiety and depression got the better of him. He wants to take up a job offer from a painter and decorator friend but is frightened. "This is the best I have been for three years," he says. If he fails at the job, he will have proved to himself he cannot function in the real world, where he has already missed out on so much. "They say it can't hurt to try - but it can," he says. It's as neat and heartbreaking a summary of so many vulnerable people's situations as you are ever likely to hear. And Stafford sits, and he listens, and he says how sorry he is.

What's On

Scan the QR code below to sign up for the What's On newsletter, our free TV email with the best reviews, news and exclusive writing direct to your inbox every Monday

Succession
9pm, Sky Atlantic



It's the last episode of the ruthless media dynasty drama. This brutal season has seen an excruciating trip to Norway, a shock pregnancy, a damning election night, an eye-watering takeover deal and a ludicrously capacious bag. But Logan's funeral last week was a cold reminder that this whole series of backstabbing and buffoonery was always about who comes out on top. Will Shiv have the last laugh? Will Kendall go rogue? Will Roman break? And what about Connor?
Hollie Richardson

RHS Chelsea Flower Show
8pm, BBC One
It has been a year of firsts for the flora and fauna bonanza. It hosted its first wedding in its 110 years, the Princess of Wales attended its inaugural children's picnic and all the gardens are now required to have a plan for life after the show. Our hosts Sophie Raworth and Joe Swift look back at this year's highlights. **HR**

University Challenge
8.30pm, BBC Two
Fingers on buzzers for Jeremy Paxman's last show. He'll no doubt be hurrying the brainboxes of Durham and Bristol for their answers. Who can identify orchestral pieces that are heavy on the organ, paintings of rowers or world events in the decade of the Norman conquest of England? The questions will be tough for Paxman's final hurrah.
Hannah Verdier

Barry
9pm, Sky Comedy
The treacle-black hitman comedy reaches its finale. Will the assassin turned actor Barry Berkman and his mentor Gene Cousineau even make it to the final scene alive? This series is the bleakest yet, so it should be a killer ending. **HR**

Steeltown Murders
9pm, BBC One
The penultimate episode of this unsparing real-crime drama: it's 2002 and DNA technology has thinned out the field of suspects. But this new paradigm still presents a series of familiar problems for the police. This impeccably constructed series boasts a convincing lead performance from Philip Glenister as dogged DCI Paul Bethell.
Phil Harrison

Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland
9pm, BBC Two
By 1972, the gulf between Catholic and Protestant communities had deepened like a bloody trench, as recalled here by haunted former sectarian footsoldiers. Yet, amid near-surreal archive footage of paramilitaries resembling Clockwork Orange droogs, along with young women tarred and feathered for fraternising with British soldiers, there are shards of optimism, ironically from the nascent punk scene.
Ali Catterall

BBC One

6.0 **Breakfast** (T) **9.15** Morning Live (T) **10.0** Rip Off Britain (T) **10.45** Fraud Squad (T) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (T) (R) **12.15** Bargain Hunt (T) **1.0** News (T) **1.20** Regional News and Weather (T) **1.30** The Repair Shop (T) (R) **2.0** Money for Nothing (T) (R) **3.0** Escape to the Country (T) **3.45** Garden Rescue (T) **4.30** Clean It, Fix It (T) **5.15** Pointless (T) **6.0** Scam Interceptors (T) (R) **6.30** News (T) **6.50** Regional News and Weather (T) **7.0** The One Show (T) **7.30** EastEnders (T)

8.0 **RHS Chelsea Flower Show** (T) Sophie Raworth and Joe Swift take a look back at this year's Royal Horticultural Society event in London.
9.0 **Steeltown Murders** (T) Through groundbreaking familial DNA technology, the team in 2002 get a breakthrough and manage to locate the killer.

10.0 **News** (T)
10.20 **Regional News** (T) Weather
10.30 **Have I Got a Bit More News for You** (T) Steph McGovern hosts an extended episode.
11.15 **Radio 1's Big Weekend Best Bits** (T) Highlights of the event in Dundee, featuring the 1975 and Lewis Capaldi.
12.15 **Weather for the Week Ahead** (T) **12.20** News (T)

BBC Two

6.45 **Great Coastal Railway Journeys** (T) (R) **7.15** Bargain Hunt (T) (R) **8.0** Sign Zone: Coast to Coast Food Festival (T) (R) **8.30** Designing the Hebrides (T) (R) **9.0** Nicky Campbell (T) **11.0** News (T) **1.0** Impossible (T) (R) **1.45** Eggheads (T) (R) **2.15** Food Map of Britain (T) (R) **2.45** A Countryside Summer (T) (R) **3.15** Big Cats (T) (R) **4.15** Back in Time (T) (R) **5.15** Flog It! (T) (R) **6.0** House of Games (T) (R) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys (T) **7.0** Digging for Britain (T) (R) **7.30** Springwatch (T)

8.30 **University Challenge** (T) The grand final, and Jeremy Paxman's last show.
9.0 **Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland** (T) A look at the growth of paramilitary organisations in the early 1970s, with killings, explosions, intimidation and street disorder becoming widespread.

10.0 FILM **Goodfellas** (Martin Scorsese, 1990) (T) An Irish-Italian boy is taken under the wing of a mobster. Crime drama, starring Ray Liotta, Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci.
12.20 **Sign Zone** Countryfile (T) (R) **1.15** The Great British Sewing Bee (T) (R) **2.15** Turkey: Empire of Erdogan (T) (R) **3.15** This Is BBC Two (T)

ITV1

6.0 **Good Morning Britain** (T) **9.0** Lorraine (T) **10.0** This Morning (T) **12.30** Loose Women (T) **1.45** News and Weather (T) **1.50** Local News and Weather (T) **1.55** FILM Smallfoot (Karey Kirkpatrick, 2018) (T) **3.45** Tenable (T) (R) **4.50** Tipping Point (T) **5.50** The Chase (T) **6.35** Local News and Weather (T) **6.45** News and Weather (T) **7.0** Emmerdale (T) **7.30** Coronation Street (T)

8.0 **Britain's Got Talent** (T) Ant and Dec host the first live semi-final of the talent contest, welcoming back acts who impressed the judges during the auditions episodes.

10.0 **News** (T) Weather
10.24 **Local News** (T) Weather
10.25 **The 1% Club** (T) (R)
11.25 **ITV Football Classic: 1989 Liverpool v Arsenal Title Decider** (T) (R)
12.30 **EFL Highlights** (T) (R) **1.15** Shop: Ideal World **3.0** All Elite Wrestling (T) (R) **4.40** Unwind With ITV (T) **5.35** Save Money: Good Diet (T)

Channel 4

6.0 **Countdown** (T) (R) **6.40** Cheers (T) (R) **7.40** The King of Queens (T) (R) **8.30** Frasier (T) (R) **10.0** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (T) (R) **11.0** Couples Come Dine With Me (T) (R) **12.0** Steph's Packed Lunch (T) **2.10** Countdown (T) **3.0** A Place in the Sun (T) (R) **4.0** The Great House Giveaway (T) (R) **5.0** Sarah Beeny's New Country Lives (T) **6.0** The Simpsons (T) (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks (T) (R) **7.0** News (T) **7.30** Kirstie and Phil's Love It Or List It: Brilliant Builds (T)

8.0 **Sarah Beeny's New Life in the Country** (T) Sarah and Graham measure up an area of lawn for a greenhouse.
9.0 **Rescue: Extreme Medics** (T) The trauma team rush to 67-year-old Walter, who has sustained a life-threatening head injury after falling down a remote hillside while walking with his sister.

10.0 **First Dates** (T) (R)
11.05 **24 Hours in A&E** (T) (R)
12.05 **Porn King: The Rise & Fall of Ron Jeremy** (T) (R) **1.05** The World's Most Luxurious Holidays (T) (R) **2.0** Kitchen Nightmares USA (T) (R) **2.50** Grand Designs (T) (R) **3.45** The Dog House (T) (R) **4.40** Kirstie and Phil's Love It Or List It: Brilliant Builds (T)

Channel 5

6.0 **Milkshake!** **9.15** Jeremy Vine (T) **11.15** Storm Huntley (T) **12.15** Alexis Conran (T) **1.40** News (T) **1.45** Home and Away (T) (R) **2.15** FILM Mystery 101: An Education in Murder (Michael Robison, 2020) (T) **4.0** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown (T) **5.0** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (T) (R) **5.55** News (T) **6.0** Eggheads (T) (R) **7.0** Traffic Cops (T) (R)

8.0 **Police Interceptors** (T) Officers battle to stop the dangerous driver of a stolen lorry on the A1.
9.0 **Police: Suspect No 1** (T) Detectives investigate after a violent attack on a group of friends on a night out leaves one of them critically injured and fighting for his life in hospital.

10.0 **Police: Night Shift 999** (T)
11.05 **999: Critical Condition** (T)
12.05 **Police Interceptors** (T) (R) **1.0** Teleshopping **3.0** Good Girls' Guide to Kinky Sex (T) (R) **3.50** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (T) (R) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (T) (R) **5.05** House Doctor (T) (R)**5.35** Fireman Sam (T) (R) **5.45** Thomas & Friends (T) (R)

BBC Four

7.0 **The Pennine Way** (T) (R) Adventurer Paul Rose explores the national trail. **7.30** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain (T) (R) The castles of north Wales.

8.0 **Italy's Invisible Cities** (T) (R) Alexander Armstrong and Dr Michael Scott explore the hidden side of Florence.
9.0 **Britain's Lost Masterpieces** (T) (R) Emma Dabiri and Bendor Grosvenor investigate a long-lost picture of George Villiers, who was the lover of James VI of Scotland and I of England.

10.0 **Britain's Biggest Warship** (T) (R) Life onboard the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth.
11.0 **Imagine: Kate Prince** (T) (R) Alan Yentob meets the dancer and choreographer.
12.05 **The Pennine Way** (T) (R) **12.35** Building of Britain (T) (R) **1.05** Italy's Invisible Cities (T) (R) **2.05** Britain's Lost Masterpieces (T) (R)

Other channels

BBC Three
7.0pm Top Gear **8.0** The Agency: Unfiltered **8.30** The Agency: Unfiltered **9.0** I Kissed a Boy **9.50** Unreal! With Olivia Neill **10.20** Fleabag **10.45** Fleabag **11.15** I Kissed a Boy **12.05** Unreal! With Olivia Neill **12.35** The Agency: Unfiltered **1.05** The Agency: Unfiltered **1.35** Fleabag **2.0** Fleabag **2.25** Rookie Nurses **2.55** Rookie Nurses **3.25** Hot Property

Dave
6.0am Teleshopping **7.10** Secrets of the Supercars **8.0** Special Ops: Crime Squad UK **9.0** Storage Hunters UK **12.0** Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing **2.40** Would I Lie to You? **3.20** Would I Lie to You? **4.0** David Jason: Planes, Trains and Automobiles **5.0** Rick Stein's Secret France **6.0** Taskmaster **7.0** Richard Osman's House of Games **7.40** Richard Osman's House of Games **8.20** Room 101 **9.0** Live at the Apollo **10.0** QI XL **11.0** Mock the Week **11.40** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **12.40** QI **1.20** Taskmaster **2.30** Richard Osman's House of Games **3.0** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA **3.25** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA **4.0** Teleshopping

E4
6.0am Hollyoaks **6.30** Hollyoaks **7.0** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.0** The Neighborhood **10.0** The Big Bang Theory **11.0** Modern Family **12.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.0** The Big Bang Theory **3.0** Modern Family **3.30** Modern Family **4.0** Young Sheldon **4.30** Young Sheldon **5.0** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.0** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.0** Hollyoaks **7.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.0** Below Deck Sailing Yacht **9.0** Gogglebox **10.0** Made in Chelsea **11.0** Impractical Jokers **11.35** Impractical Jokers **12.0** Gogglebox **1.10** Naked Attraction **2.15** Made in Chelsea **3.10** Below Deck Sailing Yacht **4.05** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **4.55** The Neighborhood

Film4
11.0am FILM Sister Act (1992) **1.05** FILM Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (1993) **3.25** FILM The Great Escape (1963) **6.55** FILM Men in Black (1997) **9.0** FILM Let Him Go (2020) **11.15** FILM The Long Good Friday (1980) **1.30** FILM Mean Machine (2001)

ITV2
6.0am World's Funniest Videos **6.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **7.0** Love Bites **8.0** Celebrity Supermarket Sweep **8.50** FILM Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **10.30** FILM Rio 2 (2014) **12.35** Catchphrase Celebrity Special **1.35** Family Fortunes **2.40** FILM Goosebumps (2015) **4.45** FILM Yogi Bear (2010) **6.25** FILM Shazam! (2019) **9.0** Family Guy **9.30** Family Guy **10.0** Family Guy **10.30** Family Guy **11.0** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **11.55** American Dad! **12.25** Bob's Burgers **12.55** Bob's Burgers **1.25** Superstore **1.55** Superstore **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Unwind With ITV **3.0** Teleshopping

Sky Max
6.0am Bondi Rescue **6.30** Bondi Rescue **7.0** Bondi Rescue **7.30** Bondi Rescue **8.0** Bondi Rescue **8.30** A League of Their Own: US Road Trip 2.0 **9.30** A League of Their Own: US Road Trip 2.0 **10.30** A League of Their Own: US Road Trip 2.0 **11.30** A League of Their Own: US Road Trip 2.0 **12.30** A League of Their Own: US Road Trip 2.0 **1.30** The 90s: Cinema's Greatest Decade **2.30** FILM The Spy Next Door (2010) **4.30** Enter the Spider-Verse: A Spider-Man Special **5.0** Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts **7.0** Football's Funniest Moments **8.0** NCIS: Los Angeles **9.0** Poker Face **10.20** Poker Face **11.40** Last King of the Cross **12.55** Bel-Air **2.0** The Flash **3.0** NCIS: New Orleans **4.0** Road Wars **5.0** Highway Patrol **5.30** Highway Patrol

Sky Arts
6.0am Tales of Offenbach **7.15** Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater **9.0** Tales of the Unexpected **9.30** Tales of the Unexpected **10.0** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **10.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.0** Discovering: Joan Crawford **12.0** Buddy Holly: Music Icons **12.30** Dusty Springfield: Music Icons **1.0** The Beach Boys: Endless Harmony **3.10** Elvis Presley: A Legend in Concert **4.05** Discovering: Buster Keaton **5.0** Tales of the Unexpected **5.30** Tales of the Unexpected **6.0** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **6.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **7.0** Discovering: Peter O'Toole **8.0** Katharine Hepburn: Call Me Kate **10.0** Discovering: Jane Fonda **11.0** The Legendary Bing Crosby **12.15** Frank Sinatra: Concert for the Americas **2.15** Why Do We Dance? **3.30** The South Bank Show **4.30** Auction: Sir Winston Churchill Special **5.0** Video Killed the Radio Star **5.30** Video Killed the Radio Star

Sky Atlantic
6.0am The Guest Wing **7.0** The Guest Wing **7.55** Game of Thrones **9.0** Succession **10.40** Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty **11.50** Billions **1.0** Souls **2.0** White House Plumbers **3.05** Game of Thrones **4.10** The Guest Wing


Goodfellas, BBC Two

Radio

Radio 3
6.30am Breakfast **9.0** Essential Classics **12.0** Composer of the Week: Domenico Scarlatti (1/5) **1.0** Lunchtime Concert. Live from Wigmore Hall, pianist Mariam Batsashvili plays Chopin, Schubert and Liszt. **2.0** Afternoon Concert.Alain Altinoglu conducts the Frankfurt Radio SO in Mussorgsky's (arr Ravel) Pictures at an Exhibition and Chausson's Poème. **4.30** New Generation Artists **5.0** In Tune **7.0** Classical Mixtape **7.30** In Concert. The Rotterdam Philharmonic's memorial concert for the bombardment of Rotterdam, with Lahav Shani conducting Mahler's Symphony No 2 in C minor. With soprano Chen Reiss, mezzo Anna Larsson and Laurens Collegium. **9.0** Ultimate Calm (8/12) **10.0** Music Matters (R) **10.45** The Essay: Charles Aznavour in Five Songs. Muriel Zagha exploring Emmenez-moi. (1/5) **11.0** Night Tracks **12.30** Through the Night

Radio 4
6.0am Today **9.0** Start the Week. From the Hay festival, Tom Sutcliffe and guests ask what Dickens would say about the world today. **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **9.45** (FM) Book of the Week: Pathogenesis – How Germs Made History. By Jonathan Kennedy. (1/5) **10.0** Woman's Hour **11.0** Blood on the Dance Floor (6/6) **11.30** The Boy in the Peking Hotel. The story of a British family imprisoned in Mao's China. **12.0** News **12.01** (LW) Shipping Forecast **12.04** You and Yours **1.0** The World at One **1.45** Oliver Burkeman's Inconvenient Truth. How convenience has warped humankind's existence. (1/5) **2.0** The Archers (R) **2.15** This Cultural Life (R) **3.0** Round Britain Quiz (8/12) **3.30** The Food Programme (R) **4.0** The Sky's the Limit? The future of airports in light of the climate crisis. **4.30** The Digital Human (2/6) **5.0** PM **5.54** (LW) Shipping Forecast **6.0** News **6.30** The Unbelievable Truth. With Alan Davies, Holly Walsh, Angela Barnes and Henning Wehn. (1/6) **7.0** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.0** What Are the Railways for? **8.30** Analysis. Schemes that have worked to reduce knife crime. (1/9) **9.0** Living With AI (R) **9.30** Start the Week (R) **10.0** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The House of Doors. By Tan Twan Eng. (1/10) **11.0** Gaby's Talking Pictures (R) **11.30** The Spark (R) **12.0** News **12.30** Book of the Week: Pathogenesis (1/5) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.0** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer **5.45** Farming Today **5.58** Tweet of the Day (R)

Radio 4 Extra
6.0am The Events at Black Tor (1/6) **6.30** The Wolf Far Hence (6/6) **7.0** One Two Three Four: The Beatles in Time (1/5) **7.15** The Citadel (1/5) **7.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar (3/4) **8.0** Round the Horne (13/16) **8.30** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful (1/6) **9.0** The Write Stuff (4/6) **9.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet (6/6) **10.0** Sorry, Boys, You Failed the Audition **10.45** The New Elizabethans (21/60) **11.0** The Events at Black Tor (1/6) **11.30** The Wolf Far Hence (6/6) **12.0** One Two Three Four (1/5) **12.15** The Citadel (1/5) **12.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar (3/4) **1.0** Round the Horne (13/16) **1.30** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful (1/6) **2.0** The Write Stuff (4/6) **2.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet (6/6) **3.0** Sorry, Boys, You Failed the Audition **3.45** The New Elizabethans (21/60) **4.0** The Events at Black Tor (1/6) **4.30** The Wolf Far Hence (6/6) **5.0** One Two Three Four (1/5) **5.15** The Citadel (1/5) **5.30** Alexei Sayle (3/4) **6.0** Round the Horne (13/16) **6.30** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful (1/6) **7.0** The Write Stuff (4/6) **7.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet (6/6) **8.0** Radiolab (4/8) **8.55** Inheritance Tracks **9.0** Mastertapes (7/10) **9.30** Rebus: Death Is Not the End (1/3) **10.0** Just a Minute (8/8) **10.30** And Now in Colour (4/6) **11.0** The News Quiz (5/7) **11.30** The Skivers (3/5) **12.0** Sorry, Boys, You Failed the Audition **12.45** The New Elizabethans (21/60) **1.0** The Events at Black Tor (1/6) **1.30** The Wolf Far Hence (6/6) **2.0** One Two Three Four (1/5) **2.15** The Citadel (1/5) **2.30** Alexei Sayle(3/4) **3.0** Round the Horne (13/16) **3.30** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful (1/6) **4.0** The Write Stuff (4/6) **4.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet (6/6) **5.0** When Elvis Met the Beatles

TODAY'S TRIVIA CORNER ANSWER STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Friday's solutions

Wordsearch

N	W	S	T	E	S	N	U	S
W	O	C	A	I	O	B	I	L
A	T	G	E	L	L	M	R	A
R	N	O	N	U	M	E	T	R
P	A	E	S	I	T	O	F	O
A	H	H	I	S	M	U	N	C
N	P	P	B	B	C	A	A	E
T	E	O	I	H	R	R	L	C
H	L	G	S	G	T	A	I	F
E	E	I	E	E	O	T	B	R
R	A	N	P	E	A	R	L	S

Sudoku no 6075

8	1	2	9	6	3	5	7	4
3	6	7	1	5	4	8	9	2
9	5	4	8	2	7	1	3	6
4	3	6	7	9	1	2	8	5
1	8	5	2	3	6	7	4	9
2	7	9	5	4	8	6	1	3
6	4	1	3	7	5	9	2	8
7	9	3	6	8	2	4	5	1
5	2	8	4	1	9	3	6	7

Suguru

2	4	1	3	2	3
1	3	2	4	1	4
2	5	1	3	2	5
1	4	2	5	1	4
3	5	1	4	3	2
1	2	3	2	5	1

Word wheel
TERRIFIED

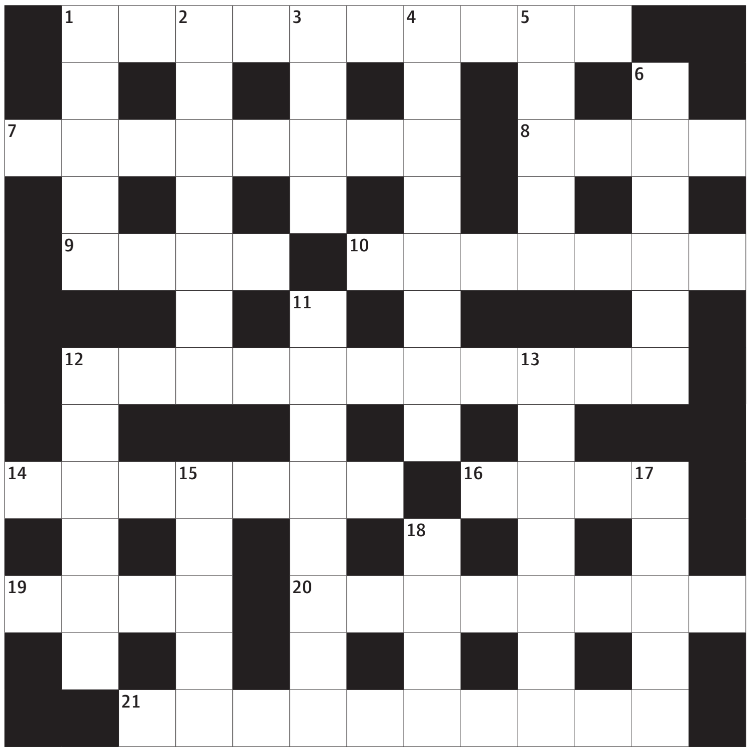
Saturday's Quick crossword
Solution no 16,554

L	O	V	E	D	U	P	■	I	■	A	■	S
O	■	A	■	O	■	U	T	R	E	C	H	T
C	O	L	O	N	E	L	■	R	■	A	■	O
U	■	I	■	T	■	P	I	E	R	C	E	D
M	A	D	A	M	■	I	■	G	■	I	■	G
■	U	■	■	E	N	T	O	U	R	A	G	E
■	R	■	■	N	■	■	■	L	■	■	A	■
C	A	F	E	T	E	R	I	A	■	■	L	■
L	■	A	■	I	■	E	■	R	E	C	A	P
A	L	L	T	O	L	D	■	V	■	A	■	I
M	■	C	■	N	■	T	R	E	M	B	L	E
P	R	O	V	I	S	O	■	R	■	E	■	T
S	■	N	■	T	■	P	U	B	E	R	T	Y

Quick crossword no 16,555

Across
1 Bird with a chisel-like bill for boring into a tree to find insects (10)
7 First part of the small intestine, immediately beyond the stomach (8)
8 Something to eat (informal) (4)
9 Administer drugs to improve one's athletic performance (4)
10 Drive a car stolen for the purpose (7)
12 Can be shown to be right or warranted (11)
14 The Grand Canyon state (7)
16 Many doors have one each side (4)
19 Explosive device (4)
20 Classification of plants and animals (8)
21 Relax (4,2,4)

Down
1 Cause bodily (or emotional) pain (5)
2 Mythical Greek king with a complex - Opus Dei (anag) (7)
3 Kind of music with deliberately offensive lyrics (4)
4 Pol Pot country (8)
5 With a strong wish (to do something) (5)
6 Hold close to give comfort (6)
11 Brief evocative description or episode (8)
12 Lingo of a particular group (6)
13 Sudden event that brings great wealth (7)
15 Striped quadruped (5)
17 With frequent jolts (5)
18 Depart (4)



Stuck? For help call 0906 200 83 83. Calls cost £1.10 per minute, plus your phone company's access charge. Service supplied by ATS. Call 0330 333 6946 for customer service (charged at standard rate). To buy puzzle books, visit guardianbookshop.com or call 0330 333 6846.

Sudoku no 6079

Easy. Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9. Printable version at theguardian.com/sudoku

			4			7		
		1		9		5		
5	6	4						
	5	8		7			2	4
				5				7
	2	3		1			5	8
9	4	2						
		5		3		4		
			6			2		

Suguru

Fill the grid so that each square in an outlined block contains a digit. A block of two squares contains the digits 1 and 2, a block of three squares contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. No same digit appears in neighbouring squares, not even diagonally.

	3				
		2			
	2	4			
					2

Wordsearch

Can you find 15 school dinner items in the grid? Words can run forwards, backwards, vertically or diagonally, but always in a straight, unbroken line.

R	G	S	N	E	E	R	G	C
I	N	E	O	W	H	Y	U	A
C	I	W	L	S	E	S	O	B
E	D	G	A	B	T	T	S	B
R	D	M	R	A	M	E	S	A
E	U	B	R	A	G	U	C	G
V	P	D	U	A	V	H	R	E
I	T	L	S	R	I	Y	O	C
L	T	U	L	P	G	I	N	O
T	A	B	S	N	A	E	B	H
S	S	P	O	N	G	E	R	I

Word wheel

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. You may not use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found. TARGET: Excellent-31. Good-26. Average-19.



Trivia corner

Which of the following musical composers or lyricists is NOT an Egot award winner?
a. Tim Rice
b. Andrew Lloyd Webber
c. Richard Rodgers
d. Stephen Sondheim
Answer top right



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